



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

April 2021

Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)

Lauren Beacham, Bill Reid, Deb Reynolds, Mari Lee, Tom Slater, Deborah Carter, Regan Riley (Back Row L-R)

Renee Knapp, Gabriel Cassutto, Tony Soltero, Josh Cramer, Antonio Bowens



The Chair's Corner-

The other day, a woman came into our office and asked if we had a directory of local Democrat-owned businesses. We got to talking about the challenges involved with putting together such a list, and the question came up of whether some business owners might not want to be identified as Democrats in a directory at all. So, business owners: what do you think? We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in being part of a public list of Frederick County's Democratic businesses. Please send a quick email to info@frederickdemocrats.org. Tell us your name, the name of your business, and whether or not you would like to be included in a potential future "Blue Business" directory.

In other news, there are two exciting Zoom events coming up in April. First, Young Dems – and young at heart – be on the lookout for info about a meet-and-greet with gubernatorial candidate Ashwani Jain, April 18 at 2:00. We're thrilled to see YDF getting active again after COVID shut everything down last year, and we encourage everyone to check out

Ashwani's campaign at <https://www.jainforgovernor.com/>.

April 24, 9:30-12:30, is our campaign school for anyone interested in running for office as a Democrat in Frederick City this year. Experienced candidates, newcomers, and potential candidates or campaign managers – all are welcome! We'll talk about fundraising, using the VAN, finding your win number, and how the Central Committee can help. Register now at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcdp-campaign-school-tickets-147713060741>.

Since our last newsletter, we interviewed eleven highly qualified Democrats to serve on the county's first redistricting commission, which will set the County Council districts' boundaries for the next ten years. It was a very difficult decision, but ultimately we recommended Mark Jafari, Jim Racheff, and Flor de Maria Garay. We are so grateful to all who applied and wish our team well on this crucial task.

We added our first associate member to the Central Committee: Stu Ballatt. Stu is a lifelong Dem with thirty years of experience as a marketing and communications leader, who has been a resident of New Market since 2015. We're especially thrilled to welcome him to our messaging subcommittee.

Finally, you may have seen our announcement last month that the Central Committee has accepted the resignation of William Reid, so we are now accepting applications to fill Bill's seat. To qualify, you must be a male resident of Frederick County and a registered Democrat. Please submit a letter of interest that includes your name, address, email and phone number, along with a brief resume, no later than April 3, to info@frederickdemocrats.org. Applicants must also be available for a brief Zoom interview on the evening of April 6.

-Deborah Carter, Chair

April 2021 - At-a-Glance



Women's Democratic League (WDL) Meeting

Monday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

For info please visit WDLFrederick.org

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting

Thursday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be virtual.



Senator Ron Young- District 3

The legislative session in Annapolis has been very busy and productive, despite the ongoing pandemic. Several of my bills have passed in the Senate and we have begun to have hearings in the House of Delegate committees. One of the more significant pieces of legislation to come out of the Senate this session is the **Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021**. On March 12, the Maryland Senate passed an ambitious climate action plan, with some bipartisan support, by 34 to 11.

The goal is to reduce Maryland's global warming pollution within the next decade to a level that is 60% lower than it was in 2006. This represents a lower target reduction than the current law, which set a 40% decrease from 2006 levels. Proposals to achieve this goal include planting five million trees, electrifying the state government's vehicle fleet and constructing more energy efficient (carbon neutral or solar ready) schools among other proposals.

The bill also will establish several working groups including a Just Transition Employment and Retraining working group that will advise on opportunities for workforce development and training relating to energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and other clean energy technologies. Consideration will be given to segments of the population that may be underrepresented in the clean energy workforce and for dislocated workers affected by the downsizing of fossil fuel industries.

The lead sponsor, Senator Paul Pinsky (D-Prince George's) warned of the danger of ignoring the climate crisis. "Addressing climate change has upfront costs, but failing to address climate change - these costs are likely to be much greater and long lasting. This is truly a small cost to taking needed action and pivoting to treating this very serious problem today in 2021."

I am one of the co-sponsors of this bill and agree with Sen Pinsky's comment.

The following are some of my lead sponsor bills that have passed in the Senate and now go to the House.

SB48 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Living Organ Donors. This bill will increase from \$7,500 to \$10,000, the amount of a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain expenses paid or incurred by an individual that are attributable to the individual's donation of an organ.

SB84 - Pharmacists – Administration of Self-Administered Medications and Maintenance Injectable Medications. This bill will authorize a licensed pharmacist to administer a “maintenance injectable medication” that is not a biological product to a patient under specified circumstances.

SB200 - Natural Resources - Organized Killing Contests – Restriction. This bill prohibits a person from sponsoring, conducting, or participating in a contest organized in Maryland that has the objective of killing a coyote, fox, or raccoon for prizes or monetary rewards. The bill may not be construed to prohibit (1) a landowner or the landowner’s agent or lessee from killing coyotes, foxes, or raccoons on the landowner’s property, as long as the killing is not part of an organized contest or (2) lawful dog training or dog performance competitions. The bill establishes a \$100 fine for each coyote, fox, or raccoon killed in violation of the bill.

SB556 - Collective Bargaining - Maryland School for the Deaf - Application and Separate Bargaining Unit. This bill extends collective bargaining rights to specified nonsupervisory teachers at the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD). The bill also authorizes the establishment of one bargaining unit for teachers at MSD.

-Ron



Delegate Karen Lewis Young

District 3A

We just passed crossover. Here are some of the key bills that have passed to date:

HB 588 and HB 589 – FY22 State Budget

After facing nearly a billion dollar structural deficit because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the House Appropriations Committee presented a budget with a balance large enough to erase the State’s deficit for two years, general funds are up by nearly \$900 million and \$1.8 billion is available to restore the Rainy Day Fund.

Because of the swift actions taken by the General Assembly and federal assistance provided by Congress, the state budget provides sufficient funding for healthcare resources to address COVID-19 impacts, shores up the State’s retirement system, fully funds the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and other education initiatives and allows additional support for low-wage earners and businesses.

HB 670 – The Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021

Based on the strong, transformational recommendations of the House

Police Reform and Accountability Workgroup, the House passed legislation to bring greater transparency and accountability to policing across Maryland. House Bill 670 will ensure equal treatment for every Marylander, safer communities and public confidence in our police departments by:

- Fully repealing of the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights
- Enhancing civilian-driven transparency in police misconduct
- Supporting civilian complaints
- Imposing swift and uniform penalties for police misconduct
- Allowing for more transparent police records
- Providing stronger limitations for use of force statutes and no-knock warrants
- Establishing independent investigations for police misconduct

HB1372 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future - Revisions

After a year of distance learning due to COVID-19 school closures, a growing number of students are falling further behind. This legislation revises the Blueprint in response to the current state of education and gives students a path forward. The Blueprint 2.0 bill includes needed fixes to education funding that were exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and:

- Provides more support to address learning loss;
- Expands behavioral and mental health resources;

- Closes the digital divide with more access to broadband and devices; and
- Requires better reporting and data tracking for more accountability.

SB 218 – Income Tax - Child Tax Credit and Expansion of the Earned Income Credit

The House passed SB218 to expand Maryland’s \$1.5B relief package to eligible Marylanders with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Without SB218, nearly 86,000 immigrant taxpayers would be excluded from the RELIEF Act – including the highest earned income tax credit (EITC) in the nation. The pandemic has hit low-income families the hardest and all Marylanders – regardless of their status – should have access to these critical relief benefits.

SB 496 – Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act

The House of Delegates passed the bipartisan RELIEF Act providing over \$1.5 billion in pandemic relief. The RELIEF Act infuses the State’s economy with \$509.0 million in spending and provides over \$1.0 billion in tax relief and credits:

- Maryland becomes the highest state in the nation for its earned income tax credit, which puts cash in the pockets of low-income Maryland taxpayers.
- Maryland also raises its earned income tax credit for individuals with no children from nearly \$100 to \$530.
- Unemployment insurance payments will be exempt from the State income tax, keeping over \$225.0 million in the pockets of

unemployed
Marylanders.

- Marylanders who qualified for the earned income tax credit in 2019 will be provided with stimulus payments of up to \$500, putting over \$175.0 million immediately in the hands low-income individuals and families.
- Allows small businesses to keep sales tax collections of up to \$9,000 over three months
- Helps up to 100,000 small businesses & nonprofits to defer paying unemployment insurance taxes until the first three months of 2022 to help cash flow (they employ $\frac{1}{4}$ of MD workforce)
- Forgives MD taxes on COVID loans and grants
- Minority and Small Business Loans (MSBDFA): Converts up to \$50,000 in Equity Participation Program loans to grants.

-Karen



Mayor Michael O'Connor

City of Frederick Adapts Again – Election 2021!

Michael O'Connor, Mayor, City of Frederick

Frederick is Adapting - Since the start of the pandemic, the City of Frederick has adapted. From creating pop-up dining opportunities for our restaurants to teleworking opportunities for employees, my message from the beginning has been that our community will get through this, together, and stronger.

With a city election in 2021, another opportunity to adapt is how we conduct our elections. When we convened the Board of Supervisors of Elections last fall, I asked them to consider the effect COVID-19 could still be having and explore aligning our municipal process with the approach taken during the 2020 federal election cycle. With the Board's recommendation, I am asking the Board of Aldermen this month to approve changes for this year's Primary and General Elections.

Expanding voting opportunity and accessibility - In 2021, ballots will be mailed to all registered voters, secure ballot drop boxes will be placed at locations throughout the city, and importantly, voters will have the option to mail completed ballots or drop them in one of the boxes. According to Frederick County Elections Director Stuart Harvey, 75 percent of the ballots returned from city voters in the 2020 general election were returned via the county's drop boxes, so we know this a process our residents understand and will use. We will have multiple days of in person voting, as well, for those who prefer that approach. Also, for the first time in the history of our elections, we will permit provisional voting.

We have an opportunity to demonstrate that taking action to make voting more accessible is possible through intentional, thoughtful policy making. In a time when voter suppression remains a national and moral crisis - as well as an obvious blemish on our "open" elections - improving ballot and ballot box accessibility is a priority that aligns to one of my 2017 campaign goals of increasing civic engagement. Along with the enhancements we have already made to increase multi-lingual and ASL interpretation capabilities, expanding access to our elections is an action we are able to take that will lower barriers and increase voter participation.

Going forward to normal - As vaccine distribution and COVID-19 recovery continue and we move forward each day toward normal, I ask our community and City of Frederick voters to join me in moving forward with innovation on municipal elections. Please mark September 14 for the primary election and look for ballots to arrive in mid-August.

I am proud of the work the City has done to bring more voices into local government and my commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice. Our elections are another opportunity to demonstrate what is possible and lead by example.
www.oconnorforfrederick.com



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

“The Rest of the Story” – COVID-19, Presidents, Reading, and Travel

I have always been fascinated by U.S. presidents. When I taught U.S. history at the high school and college level, I emphasized the political rather than social or economic themes of history. Organizing U.S. history around presidential administrations after colonial times is easy to do. Before the pandemic began, I read *The Presidents*, published by C-Span, which consisted of the transcripts of a series of C-Span programs on each president that was filmed on location at presidents’ homes, libraries, or other places with a prominent historian discussing a president he or she had written about. At the end of the book was a 2017 ranking of all of the presidents from #1 Lincoln to #45 Donald Trump. Being the obsessive-compulsive person that I am, I decided to read a book about each president starting with Lincoln and ending with #44 (James Buchanan) – I had already read enough books about Trump. I am currently on #25 (Gerald Ford).

Along the way, I discovered two books by Louis Picone: *Where the Presidents Were Born* and *The President Is Dead*. These are two fascinating reads where Picone goes into minute detail about where each president was born and where each president died. He traces the ownership of the house, hospital, etc. where each president was born and

then discusses how or if the location has been memorialized with a historical marker, a museum, etc. For each president’s death he describes in graphic detail what he died of, where he died, and gives details involving his funeral, including who spoke, the cost of the funeral and what songs were sung. The funeral is followed up with details as to where each president is buried – some were buried once and then re-interred more than once. For each president’s death and birth locations he also has a section on restoration of the location where the president was born and where he died, gives directions on how to find the location, and even gives tips on where to grab a bite to eat nearby. My obsessive-compulsive nature has led me to make a long list of presidential birth places and death locations with a plan to visit all that I have not already visited. I have already visited many including Mt. Vernon (Washington’s death), Monticello (Jefferson’s death), Warm Spring (FDR’s death), a remote location in northern Vermont (Chester A. Arthur’s birth) and others.

A few months ago, at the height of the COVID-19 restrictions, my wife and I decided to go on a one-day road trip where we could abide by covid restrictions and take in a little of nearby history. We started in Brunswick because my wife wanted to take a look at where her grandmother used to live. We crossed the bridge into Virginia and headed for Lovettsville with the intention of stopping in Leesburg to find the home of former general and Secretary of State George C. Marshall (remember the Marshall Plan?). My GPS took us through Waterford, a delightful little town steeped in history. Waterford became a rich farming community with a mill and quant old houses. It was the site of a battle during the Civil War between local Quakers loyal to the Union and local farmers supporting the Confederacy. Relatives of mine fought on both sides in this battle (my Grandfather Slater was born in Loudoun County, Virginia and his family lived there for a long time). Donona Manor in downtown Leesburg (312 East Main Street) was

the home of George C. Marshall and is now the site of the George C. Marshall International Center. It is open to the public (we did not go inside due to the pandemic) and has a beautiful house and grounds. Marshall and his wife purchased the property in 1941 for \$16,000, and he lived there until his death in October 1959. If you are making this day trip, Donona Manor is a good place for a bathroom break as restrooms are in the detached garage. For more information about Marshall, contact local Democratic activist Don DeArmon, who is an aficionado of Marshall and knows much more about him than anyone I know.

After leaving Leesburg, we headed for Oak Hill Farm, the little-known mansion and plantation that was the home of President James Monroe. It is nine miles south of Leesburg on Route 15 (the James Monroe Highway). Monroe had the mansion constructed in 1822 while he was still president. He owned the property for 22 years, and it was his only residence from 1827 until 1830 when his wife died and Monroe moved to New York City to live with his daughter. It is a private residence and not open to the public.

Jefferson County, West Virginia, known for the Charles Town racetrack, is also known as the county with the Washington homes. George Washington surveyed the area in March of 1748. Later, some of Washington’s relatives eventually purchased land in Jefferson County and built a number of homes there, eight of which still remain. The two most notable are Harwood, which was built in 1771 by Washington’s half-brother, Samuel. James Madison and Dolly Madison were married at this home on September 15, 1794. The home still exists but is a private residence just past entrance to the Locust Hill Golf course outside of Charles Town. The largest and most famous Washington home in Jefferson County is known as Claymont Court. It is a Georgian-style brick mansion built in 1840 by Bushrod C. Washington, grand-nephew of George Washington, after the 1820 main house burned down in

1836. Claymont Court is currently owned by the Claymont Society for Continuous Education and is not open to the public. Its entrance is blocked by a steel fence, but the house can be seen from Huyett Road, not too far from Charles Town.

One day when you want to get out of the house, while we still have restrictions, making the above day trip might be fun.

Sorry to report the recent passing of David Denton and Hank Heller. David was the long-time leader of the Maryland School for the Deaf. He ran in the Democratic primary for House of Delegates in Frederick County in 1994 but lost to Tom Slater and Tom Hattery, who both lost in the general election to David Brinkley and Paul Stull in a strong Republican year. Dr. Hank Heller served in the Maryland General Assembly, representing Montgomery County, from 1967 to 2011. A graduate of Frostburg State College (now University), he was a fraternity brother of Tom Slater and Galen Clagett.

40 Years ago in the Banner – Cost for the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner was \$12.50 per person with an open bar. Seymour Stern was re-appointed to the F.C.C. Board of Trustees. The Central Committee held an open meeting to interview potential recommendations for appointment to the Board of Education. Steny Hoyer was running in the Democratic primary to succeed Gladys Spellman in Congress from Prince George's County.

Pictures:

#1 – Waterford Mill



#2 – Dodona Manor



#3 – Oak Hill Lane (off US 15)



#4 – President Monroe's home – Oak Hill



#5 – Harwood Historical marker



#6 – Harwood (where Dolly & James Madison were married)



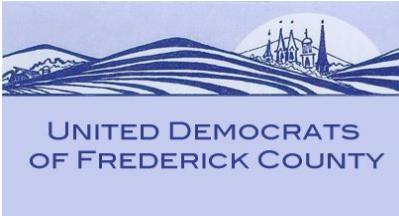
#7 – Entrance to Claymont Court



#8 – Claymont Court (from a distance)



United Democrats of Frederick County-



Thank you to Congressman John Sarbanes for being our guest at our March 22, 2021, event with the Women’s Democratic League (WDL). Rep. Sarbanes spoke to us about the For The People Act (H.R. 1), which he is sponsoring in the House. The Act will expand access to the ballot box, promote integrity by restoring the Voting Rights Act, and ensures that American elections are decided by American voters, without interference. In addition, H.R. 1 will end the dominance of big money in our political upgrading online political ad disclosures, empower citizens by creating a multiple matching system for small donations, and strengthen oversight of political campaigns. The bill has bipartisan support nationally, but we need to convince Republicans in Congress to support H.R. 1.

The elections of 2016 and 2020 have shown us that the time is right for this legislation, otherwise the consequences can be devastating. As we write this, voting rights are under attack in Georgia and this legislation will go a long way to combat these underhanded tactics being introduced by Republican legislators. When the people are allowed to vote freely and have easy access to the polls, then Democrats win. It took the efforts of Stacey Abrams and voting rights groups like Fair Fight to win both Senate seats in Georgia. We cannot rest on these victories, since the fight for voting rights is just beginning.

Our April 5 meeting will be another join event with the WDL, where we have invited our newly appointed Frederick City Police Chief, Jason Lando, to speak about his plans for the job and how he hopes to contribute to our community. Please look for our event on Facebook and in your email to register for the event through Eventbrite.

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, 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!

**Want to run for office in 2021 but don’t know where to start?
Save the date and join us for our FREE**

**Democratic Campaign School
Saturday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

FUNDRAISING ★ CAMPAIGNING ★ DATA ANALYSIS ★ MANAGING VOLUNTEERS

Online Event! Register at bit.ly/fcdccschool21





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!

Important Note: Remember, that while we have defeated President Trump in the election, Trumpism lives on and will outlast his term in office. We must work to expunge these dangerous beliefs from our politics at the local, state and federal level.

-Gabriel Cassutto



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,

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OR

Central Committee -

info@frederickdemocrats.org



and



with

Frederick County Democrats

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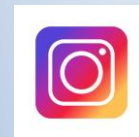
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WDL

Women's Democratic League
Frederick County, Maryland



Join us for our Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 19
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**“Gerrymandering &
Redistricting”**

Presented by Sam Van Rens and Lara Westdorp

Visit our website or Facebook page for more
info and to sign up!

www.wdlfrederick.org

Questions? Email us at wdlfrederick@gmail.com WDLFrederick on Facebook

2021
Summit Western Maryland Democratic
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Save the Date

The 17th Annual Western Maryland Democratic Summit

September 24 & 25, 2021

Rocky Gap Casino Resort

More Details and Registration Coming Summer 2021!



www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute

JOIN THE MONTHLY SUSTAINERS

**YOUR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US KEEP
FREDERICK COUNTY BLUE IN 2021 AND 2022!**



BY AUTHORITY FCDCC TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)