

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE BANNER

**An Online Monthly e-Newsletter
for the Democratic Party**

BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER



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CHAIR'S CORNER

Chairwoman Deborah Carter

Chair's Corner

It's back-to-school time! As a retired teacher, I always pay special attention to the Board of Education election, and the 2022 race is already shaping up to be very ... interesting. Perennial candidate (and three-time loser) Cindy Rose is at it again; she's built a slate they call "Education NOT Indoctrination." Included in the platform: require that winter break be referred to as "Christmas break," put spycams in all classrooms, and do away with masks and vaccine mandates. There's much more, but I'll spare you.

This means that we will need sensible, sane candidates next year more than ever. Please start thinking about it - if you have ever considered running for office, now is your time! Or if you know anyone who would be a good candidate, suggest this possibility. Attend a school board meeting and check out how it works. Reach out to us for campaign help. Let's defeat Cindy and her friends for good.

But before that election, we have the Frederick City race. As is mentioned elsewhere in this edition of the Banner, the candidates who make it through the Democratic primary on September 14 will likely be the winners in November. If you're a city resident, please make your voice heard! You have a number of excellent candidates to choose from, but that doesn't mean you should shrug and toss your ballot because "they'd all be good!" Look for our "Make a Plan to Vote" graphic


if you're unsure how it will work this year (spoiler alert: you can't go to your usual polling place).

And Frederick isn't the only municipality with an election this fall. Walkersville, Emmitsburg, and Thurmont all have town elections coming up. And there's even time to become a candidate in Thurmont; email us if you're interested!

Ready to go beyond voting? There are so many other ways to get involved. Although some events, like the Western Maryland Democratic Summit, have been cancelled or postponed, others are

proceeding cautiously in person. Our volunteer signups can be found at <https://frederickdems.ivolunteer.com/>. You can help staff our office, join us at In the Streets, and work our tent at the Great Frederick Fair. We'd love to have you!

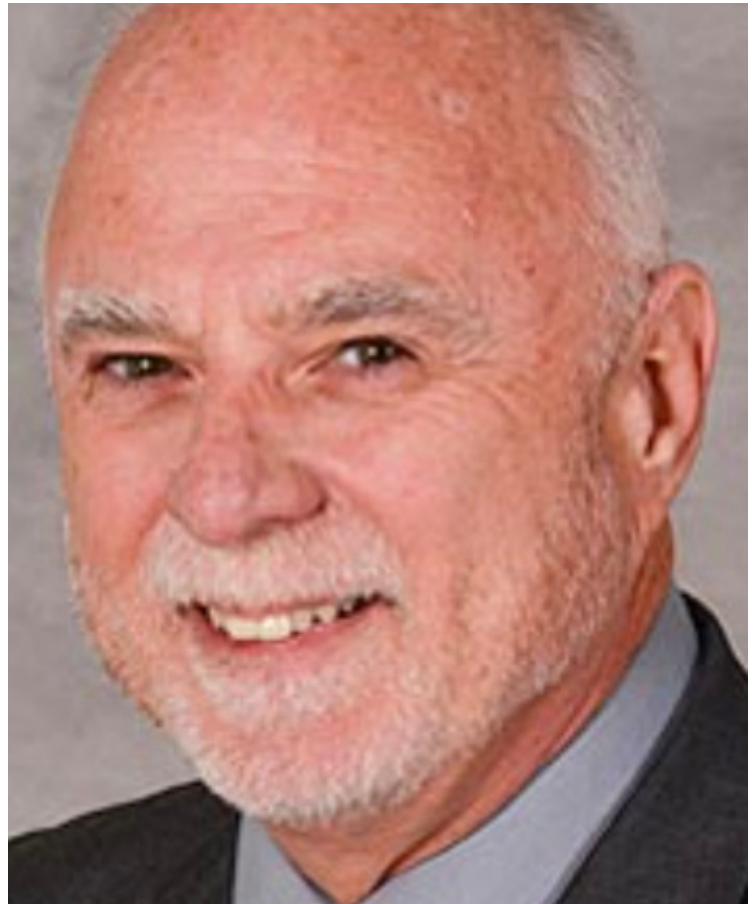
Our fundraising efforts for 2022 continue as well. If you don't feel comfortable joining us in person at an event like tonight's Plow-Fish - or even if you do - please consider becoming a monthly sustainer (<https://www.frederickdemocrats.org/get-involved/monthly-sustainer>). As a sustainer, you will receive a decal and a Frederick Democrats tote bag, as well as discounts on Plowman/Fisherman events and our annual Democratic Party gala. Even a contribution of \$5.00 helps!

And yes, as of this writing, we are planning to hold our gala as scheduled on October 25. We'll be at Dutch's Daughter, joined by a number of elected officials from across the state, including Senator Chris Van Hollen. You must be fully vaccinated to attend; details to follow very soon 



District 3B

DELEGATE KEN KERR



In these final weeks of summer, I've personally been awaiting some cooler weather. I've been out visiting the voters of District 3B, and I've needed a few changes of shirts and a lot of water in this heat and humidity. I've been checking in to see how the people of 3B are managing, if they need any assistance, and just to make sure they know how to contact me. Those who have questions or concerns usually mention vaccine and mask mandates. No one wants to go back to last year's restrictions, and many fear that's where we are headed. Now that the Pfizer vaccine has full FDA approval, it will give employers a clear path to requiring workers get vaccinated. Everyone seems to be losing patience with the unvaccinated and recent spikes in infections.

Others I speak with are upset employers are having a hard time getting people back to work. There is a common belief that these are people content to collect unemployment and not interested in returning to work. While that is certainly true for some, it is not fair or accurate to paint all collecting unemployment with that same brush. When a sector of the economy shuts down (for example conferences and conventions), it restarts in stages. Hospitality workers, caterers, and others can't go back to work until people start going to conventions again. Sure—they could get a job in a different industry, but this is where they have put in their years, gained seniority, honed their skills. Waiting to be called back to work with an employer with whom you have built a career does not seem unreasonable. Others are reluctant to return to a workplace where their co-workers refuse to be vaccinated. Many of these people have young children at home who are not old enough to get the vaccine and they don't want

to risk bringing the virus home from work courtesy of an inconsiderate and unvaccinated co-worker.

My point is, it's complicated. We should be understanding of people's circumstances and not assume someone not working is doing so by choice rather than necessity. That's how I approach the topic when I meet voters at their doors.

Speaking of voters, I urge my Frederick City friends to get out to vote in the primary. The primary is the important race in Frederick City. With voter registration overwhelmingly in the Democrats' favor in the city, the winners in the Democratic primary are likely to go on to victory in November. Tuesday, September 14, is Primary Election Day.

Two days after the Frederick City primary, I hope you will join me on Thursday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. on the rooftop of SpringHill Suites on Byte Drive. There and then I will discuss my plans for the 2022 election. I hope to see you there.





District 3A – Frederick

DELEGATE KAREN LEWIS YOUNG

Despite the fact that the General Assembly recessed in April, this has been an inordinately busy interim. Like other years, we have constituent work, conferences, and planning for legislative initiatives for the next session.

This year the constituent workload has been unusually heavy with unemployment claims. Far too many constituents are not receiving responses from the Department of Labor (DLLR). We learn of numerous instances of calls going unanswered for months. While the system may have been overloaded initially, there has been plenty of time to correct that.

Kris Fair, my Legislative Director, submits ongoing reports to DLLR about constituents who have contacted us about not receiving responses. On several occasions, I have escalated some of the more extreme cases myself. However, the problems have become worse. This led me to sign a group letter asking for the resignation of the Secretary of DLLR. Unfortunately, this has only resulted in a further deterioration of service.

This lack of urgency is unacceptable. The COVID-19 pandemic is showing no signs of going away anytime soon. There is a lot of fear and concern for health reasons. People should not have to be exasperated by financial anxieties that are not under their control.

Last week Kris and I attended the annual MACo Conference (MD Association of Counties). This is both a learning and networking experience. During session, it is frequently challenging to track down stakeholders on legislation. Also, strong opposition is often a death sentence to some very good ideas. That's why it's

critical to vet legislative initiatives well in advance.

During this conference I was able to gain some leadership support on my mental health initiatives, obtain a cross-file agreement from a Senate committee chair, and speak with the Secretary of the Department of Health (MDH) on improving options for citizens with disabilities. These types of conversations would normally take at least three weeks to occur, so I am pleased to have been able to connect over three days.

In addition to our normal interim activities, I am chairing a workgroup. During the 2021 session, I was the lead sponsor of HB 318: the Self-Directed Service Act. This bill required MDH to increase flexibility in decision-making about their care for recipients of services funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. This legislation was opposed by MDH, who claimed that it was in violation of federal policies.

Given that the advocates had strong reason to believe that this was not the case, I was able to persuade leadership to authorize an interim workgroup. The ultimate goal of the group is to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not institutionalized and have the support systems to remain at home. We are deeply into the process of identifying those support systems that will assist disabled individuals and their families and reconciling those program attributes with federal guidelines so that we don't risk federal funding. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to assist the most vulnerable among us.



Frederick City
**MAYOR
MICHAEL
O'CONNOR**



As we head into the final quarter of 2021, it is hard to believe we are still talking about COVID-19 and the impacts of the pandemic. Unfortunately, while vaccines are prevalent, our community, the state, and much of the country has hit a plateau. As of late August, our case rate is higher today than it was at this time last year and only about 60% of our community is fully vaccinated.

The governor's declaration of a state of emergency and catastrophic health crisis in Maryland expired at midnight on August 15. When the Board of Aldermen voted in April 2020 to extend the city's state of emergency without limit, my pledge then was that I would look at what and how the state was doing and was unlikely to deviate substantially. At the time my hope was that it would be obvious, when the emergency declaration was lifted, that the pandemic was in the past. Though the worst likely is, Frederick County is at a high transmission level right now, as is much of the state.


I believe our community and city government need to see lower transmission rates and hit certain vaccination targets before I can comfortably say there is no longer a state of emergency in Frederick. Thus, I am not rescinding The City of Frederick's state of emergency until at least 70% of the community is fully vaccinated or we return to a state of low transmission per the CDC.

This decision impacts some internal city operations, but we will ask the Board to look at other ordinances that could be affected. The public will see some aspects of Frederick returning to pre-COVID status due to the state's changed condition. For example, pop-up dining, including parklets downtown,

parking lot dining elsewhere in the city, and expanded food truck opportunities could change. These allowances, over the past many months, have enabled our local restaurants to survive the impact of closures and reduced capacity. I also believe they have been essential lifelines for our retail and service economies.

We will also be seeing the return or some favorite fall events including In the Streets and the Great Frederick Fair. Attendees to these events should take every appropriate precaution. For the fully vaccinated, while infection is possible, all the reliable scientific data show serious illness and death are greatly reduced. With or without mask mandates, vaccinated or not, I encourage everyone to continue to wear masks when indoors with others and outside where distancing is difficult or impossible.

At the city, masks and a health screening are required for all employees and guests entering our facilities. I encourage all businesses and organizations to adopt similar policies.

In short, there is still work to do as a community. I urge all residents who are not vaccinated, and who are medically able, to get vaccinated. We need more residents to wear masks and get vaccinated. It really is that simple. 

Steady, compassionate, trusted, ethical, respectful leadership.

Primary Election Day is September 14.
www.oconnorforfrederick.com

What better way to announce my plans for 2022 than by putting the band back together?

Please join me at **Springhill Suites Frederick "Rooftop Vista Bar"** 111 Byte Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21702 on **Thursday September 16th at 7:00 pm**. My old friends, Andy Carignan, Dale Hooper, and Shawn Dennison will be joining me to play some music; we'll have some food, and we'll re-connect with colleagues and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting with a stunning view of Catoclin Mountain on a cool late-summer evening.

With the 2022 primary less than a year away, it's time to start talking about what's ahead, and I'll be honored to have you with me when I discuss my plans.

Please come as my guest. However, if you wish to make a contribution or sponsor the event, you can go to:

actblue.com/donate/2022kick-off



Authority: "Friends of Ken Kerr" Helen R. Kerr, Treasurer

Send checks to:
 Friends of Ken Kerr
 7412 Skyline Drive
 Frederick, MD 21702



EMERGE
 MARYLAND

**Please join us at
 The Vineyards at Dodon***

to celebrate our Founder and outgoing Chair Martha McKenna for her ten years of outstanding dedication and success with Emerge Maryland and Democratic women across the state.

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021 (Rain Date Oct 6)
 5:00pm-7:00pm**

Hosted by
 Tom Croghan and Polly Pittman

Join our Host Committee and show Martha some love!

Host Levels:

Martha's besties – \$1500.00

Mollie Byron, Diane Fink, Abby Hendrix

Martha's friends – \$1000

Sage Media Planning and Placement

Martha's supporters – \$500

Jen Driban, Elizabeth Embry, Joan Kleinman, Kathleen Matthews,
 Tom Perez, Elisabeth Sachs, Ashley Valis,
 Hon. Nicole Williams, Screen Strategies Media

Martha's admirers – \$250

Beth Daly, Pam Guzzone,
 Hon. Courtney Watson

Single Ticket – \$100

Young Professional – \$50

Masks required • This is an outdoor event • Rain Date Oct 6.

*If the COVID situation proves to be too much of a risk we will hold this event online.

Re-elect Michael O'Connor for Mayor
 By Authority O'Connor For Frederick, Tammy O'Connor Treasurer



The 2021 Election
Burgess & C
 Commissioner candidates!

Burgess

1. Chad W. Weddle

Commissioners

- 1. Michael R. Bailey
- 2. Gary Albert Baker
- 3. Mary Ann Brodie-Emmis
- 4. Tom Gilbert
- 5. Michael McNish
- 6. Russell Winch
- 7. Bob Yoder
- 8. John Zimmerman, Jr.



The Town will be scheduling a Meet The Candidates Forum. Stay tuned for more details!





www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute

JOIN THE MONTHLY SUSTAINERS

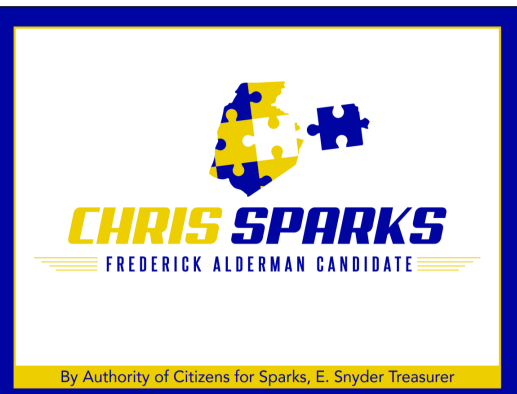
YOUR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US KEEP FREDERICK COUNTY BLUE IN 2021 AND 2022!



BY AUTHORITY FCDCC TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER

MEET CHRIS SPARKS

Candidate for Alderman, Frederick City



Chris Sparks owns Surelocked In Escape Games and has big ideas to solve the riddles of Frederick City! A life-long Frederick local and former youth minister, Chris is the only aldermanic candidate who operates a Market Street business. Sparks is running to give the next generation a voice in local government. His vision is built on advocating for affordable housing, emboldening the arts, and reimagining the city's role in helping our homeless citizens. Sparks seeks to transform downtown with a permanent Market Street Mall (pedestrian only zone), a free Frederick Flyer shuttle program, and the construction of the Downtown Hotel & Conference Center.



Check out his ideas at www.citizenforasparks.com
<https://www.facebook.com/VoteSparks>
<https://www.instagram.com/chris-sparks-for-frederick/>
Twitter: @Sparks4Alderman

WDL

Women's Democratic League
Frederick County, Maryland



1923-2018

Monday, September 20 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join us for our monthly meeting!

Check out our website and Facebook page for
more information

www.wdlfrederick.org

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



Frederick City Primary - September 14, 2021

Make a Plan to Vote!

BY MAIL:

- ✓ Every registered Democrat and Republican will receive a mail-in ballot. The deadline to register or change your affiliation is **August 16**.
- ✓ Read all directions carefully! Fill it out in black ink and **sign the oath**.
- ✓ Put your ballot in one of the convenient drop boxes or mail it in by **September 14**.
- ✓ Drop boxes will be located at:
 - Frederick County Board of Elections office, 340A Montevue Lane
 - Talley Recreation Center, 121 North Bentz Street
 - Hillcrest Commons, 1150 Orchard Terrace
 - Housing Authority Office, 209 Madison Street
 - Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike
 - Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, 1501 North Market Street
 - Trinity School, 6040 New Design Road

IN PERSON:

- ✓ **DO NOT** try to vote in person if you already dropped off or mailed in your ballot.
- ✓ There will be **ONE** polling location:
 - Trinity School, 6040 New Design Road
- ✓ Vote early September 8- 11 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ Vote September 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Go to frederickdemocrats.org to see all the Democratic candidates.
- Go to cityoffrederickmd.gov to learn more about the election.
- Go to vote411.org to check or update your voter registration status.

¡Planifique su voto! Visite a cityoffrederickmd.gov



By Authority of The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee, Tony Soltero, Treasurer.



SAVE THE DATE

THE WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK
COUNTY INVITES YOU TO OUR

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Monday, October 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Virtual Event | Zoom Meeting

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Voting Rights
Virtual Town Hall
Thursday, Sept. 2nd
7 - 8 pm
Special Guest Speaker
Congressman Jamie Raskin

Hosted by
Frederick NAACP &
Frederick Progressives

To register go to: frederickprogressives.com/raskin2021



EDITOR'S CORNER

*Violet Williams,
Frederick County Democratic Central
Committee Member*



Hello there!

If you have any thoughts or ideas for further changes, content you would like to see, or any other thoughts you can reach me at

J.violetwilliams@gmail.com

or on Instagram @violetlikespolitics

Gmail Users: Our mail server causes the Banner to be sent to your "promotions" tab by default. 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 will check your subscription.

Happy reading,

Violet

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8				3	1	6		

DID YOU KNOW?

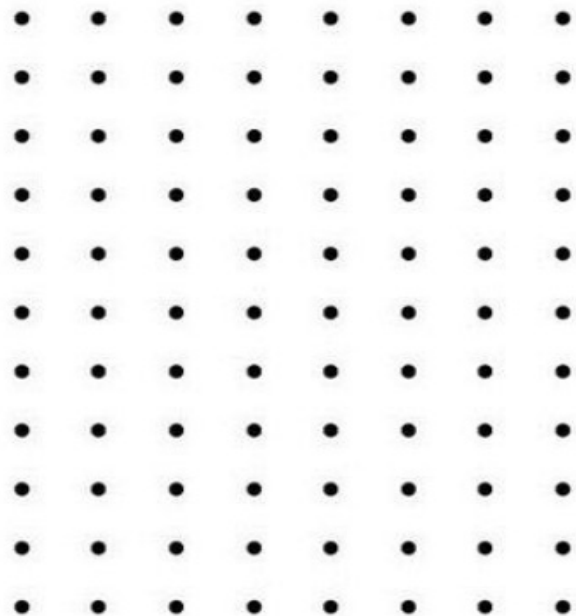
There is only two people that have ever had more that 16,000 books written about them:

Abraham Lincoln and Jesus Christ.

BRAIN TEASER

You are driving a bus. At the first stop, two women get on. At the second stop, three men get on, and one woman gets off. At the third stop, three kids and their mom get on, and a man gets off. The bus is grey, and it is raining outside. What color is the bus driver's hair?

Stuck? Email me for the answer!



Dots and Boxes

GET INVOLVED:

<https://frederickdems.ivolunteer.com/>

GET INFORMED:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb site/Members/District>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/frederick-democrats-podcast/id1255766786?mt=2>

GET BUSY:

<https://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar>

GET CONNECTED:



SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE:

Can you make it out to any events this month? We would love to see you!

4 First Saturday

11 Frederick City, In the streets

13 Walkersville Election

14 Frederick City Primary election

17-25 great Frederick Fair

18 Canvass Kick-off event

19 PlowFish event

28 Emmitsburg Election

FREDERICK COUNTY DEMS AT THE FOOD BANK

Every Friday in September from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Contact: Maureen Grayzeck – mgrayzeck2016@gmail.com

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

OFFICE HOURS:

The FCDCC Office will be open:

Saturday September 4th, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Monday the 13th, and the 27th from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

We will be closed for many events

<https://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar>



Save The Date!

THE FREDERICK DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Annual Gala



MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

SOCIAL HOUR | DINNER | PROGRAM

DUTCH'S DAUGHTER

MORE INFO COMING SOON AT FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG



BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER