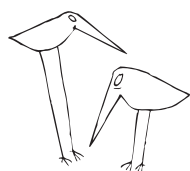


Democrats Donate to Lydia's Place Shelter for Women and Families



Pictured with the Rev. Alexis Coleman (left), Executive Director of Lydia's Place, are Diane Hubbard and Todd Dulaney. On March 22, supplies donated by Randolph County Democrats were delivered to Lydia's Place Shelter for Women and Families, located in Asheboro. Thanks to all those who generously donated needed items such as cleaning and laundry supplies, diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc. Future donations may be dropped off at HQ or donate directly at: lydiasplacenc.org/support-our-work/.



Precinct Organization Still Needed

This is a list of the organized and unorganized precincts. If you live in an unorganized precinct and would be willing to talk to your Democratic neighbors and get it organized, please send Diane an email at: rcdp.countychair@gmail.com. If you don't know your voting precinct, please visit the NC Board of Elections polling place lookup to find out at: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup/>

Organized: Archdale, Asheboro East, Asheboro South, Asheboro West, Grant, Liberty, Providence, Ramseur, Staley, and Union Grove.

Unorganized: Asheboro North, Back Creek, Deep River, Level Cross, New Market, Randleman, Southeast, Southern, Southwest, Tabernacle, Trinity, Trinity-Tabernacle



Save the Date

What: **Lunch with Lawmakers**

When: Friday, April 28, 2023

Where: Colonial Country Club
7047 Colonial Club Drive
Thomasville, NC
(Randolph County)

Time: Noon to 1:30 pm

Sponsor: Archdale-Trinity Chamber

To Register or for more information: 336-434-2073

Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 for Archdale-Trinity members

An anonymous donor will cover the cost for four Democratic members to attend.



Randolph County Democratic Party

RanDem News

APRIL/MAY 2023, Issue No. 25

Democrats! It's Time to Spring into Action

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Spring always makes me a little restless. I feel like I'm ready to get something done, maybe organize something or spruce something up. Hey, how about we do that with our local Democratic Party? Come on. It'll be fun! Who doesn't like herding cats? We're already off to a decent start with precinct organizing, but there's always room for improvement. We managed to officially get 10 out of 22 fully organized. While we are past the time allotted by the NCDP to organize and input the info into Votebuilder, we can still unofficially organize precincts for our own local benefit. Precincts are the first place we look when trying to find volunteers to put out campaign signs, find poll workers or greeters, and recruit volunteers for local events. (See page four for more information on organizing precincts.) The precinct is as grassroots as it gets, and that is where we plant the first seeds for success.

If you're anything like we are in my house, we sit down with the seed catalog when it's still cold outside and decide what sorts of things we want to grow. We craft our garden plan, which is what we'll be doing at a strategic planning retreat on Saturday, May 6, at the Gatekeeper's House in Asheboro. During this retreat, we hope to lay out the whats, whys, and hows — the seeds if you will — of our plan for this year's

municipal elections. We'll do all this with an eye on next year's Presidential election and the ways in which we tweak the plan for a larger campaign. Bring your best ideas and join us. Seating is limited, so RSVP early at: mobilize.us/mobilize/event/555315/.

And while we're waiting for those seeds to sprout, we need to till the dirt to make sure the ground is fertile and ready to grow what we've planted. We're planning to get out into the community and shake things up a bit. We need to be more visible. The best way to do this is to support our neighbors in whatever ways they may need help. Not only will this raise our visibility, but it will also satisfy one of our basic tenets as Democrats: helping others. We have some ideas in the hopper already, but if you know of a local organization whose ideals are in line with ours, especially one that may be overlooked or underfunded, let us know. Maybe some of our volunteers can help them achieve their goals.

A tree is known by its fruit. Will we be a Bradford pear, big and showy but with hard, tasteless fruit and brittle limbs? Or will we be like the wild plum in my grandmother's yard, humble and unobtrusive but bearing tiny, sweet fruits that were craved by the whole family each year? Will we choose quantity or quality? I think we can do both. What about variety and inclusion? There is strength in diversity, so diversity is essential. And finally, are we willing to put in the work to prepare, sow, then gather what we hope to grow? If we do all these things then truly, our harvest will be good, and they will know us by our fruits.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mailing address: Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204

HQ is currently open. Call for hours.

(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c2023)

**Strategic
Planning
Retreat
on
May 6**



Share a Review or an Opinion

Send your review/opinion piece to: rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. There is a 50 word limit for reviews, and a 300 word limit for opinions. We will publish as many as space allows. Please be aware that articles will be edited if necessary for space and clarity. Thank you.

Statue Must be Moved from Courthouse

by Pat Chamberlin

In March 2022, the Asheboro City Council approved a resolution detailing why the monument to “Confederate heroes” should not be located on the grounds of the county courthouse. The resolution proposes that the Randolph County Commissioners create a committee to investigate options for relocating the statue to private property or an appropriate museum or park and displaying it with accurate historical context.

A year has gone by, and during that time there have been citizens standing up at every meeting of the county commissioners and speaking in favor of relocating the monument. The effort to keep this issue in front of the commissioners has been driven by the determined and tireless leadership of Chip Foust, president of the local NAACP chapter. Has the county position on this issue changed over the last year? Not yet. However, it only took the county about two days to put up a temporary, then a permanent, fence around the monument when it was sprayed with graffiti, at the cost of \$40,000 of taxpayer money.

A growing number of folks, from many and diverse backgrounds, are becoming aware of the actual history of our county and the fact that the monument does not accurately represent that history. When the statue is finally moved from the courthouse lawn, the county will be a better place to live and work. Until then, there is no better example of why local elections are important. If we want county leadership that represents all citizens of the county, we must get candidates for county commissioner who are open minded on this issue, and we must do the work it takes to get them elected.

Voice Your Opinion

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the 1909 Randolph County Historic Courthouse Meeting Room, 145-C Worth Street, Asheboro, unless otherwise announced. If you’d like to voice your opinion on moving the Confederate statue away from the front of the courthouse to a more appropriate place, please consider attending your County Commissioners’ meetings.



“EVERY day of school should be as important as the first day.”

by Todd Dulaney, 2023 candidate for Asheboro City School Board of Education

Gwen Williams reminded several of her fellow Asheboro City Schools Board of Education members of this during the March board meeting after one member (who happens to be up for re-election this fall) said that having students end the school year on a Tuesday is a waste of time because parents will be headed to the beach on Friday. That board member went on to say that those parents just won’t send their kids to school the last two days of school.

The conversation arose during a presentation of the district’s proposed calendar for the ’24-’25 school year, which would end on a Tuesday. (The ’22-’23 and ’23-’24 school years both end on a Friday for students.) Several board members were frustrated by what one member called an “unfunded mandate” from the state that dictates much of what goes into the calendar — start/ends dates, number of student/teacher days, etc. Several discussed ways to end the school year on a Friday to allow for a Friday night graduation. Ideas included shuffling teacher workdays and possibly combining early dismissal days. One board member said that other districts are simply ignoring the state requirements and creating their own calendars, but thankfully he stopped short of suggesting ACS do the same.

But what prompted Gwen (who was actually on the committee that drafted the calendar!) to state the obvious: “EVERY school day should be important” ... was the beach comment. Sure, some families are looking forward to heading to the beach as soon as the last school bell rings, but realistically, that’s not what the vast majority of parents will be doing. Knowing the demographics of the district, that beach trip isn’t in the budget or on the cultural radar for most ACS families. Instead, parents are thinking about childcare and feeding their kids lunches all summer.

It’s also worth noting that the “last day of school” discussed was for students. Teachers have two required (and one optional) workdays regardless. So, ironically, if the last day for students remains on a Tuesday for ’24-’25, that would make the last day for teachers a Friday ... and what a Friday that would be.

The proposed calendar is on the ACS website: asheboro.k12.nc.us/BoardPoliciesUnderReview.aspx for a 30-day public review and comment period.

CALENDAR

(Meetings will be conducted in person unless otherwise noted or announced.)

April 1, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting at Democratic HQ. 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro. All Democrats and like-minded unaffiliateds are welcome! Bring a breakfast item to share.

April 15, Saturday, County Democratic Convention will be held in the downstairs Conference room of the Asheboro Public Library. Breakfast will be provided. 9:15 am setup/social time; 10 am Call to Convention. Officers will be elected.

April 22, Friday, 6 pm: NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center.

April 28, Friday, Noon to 1:30 pm: Lunch with Lawmakers at Colonial Country Club, Thomasville. See details on page four.

May 6, Saturday, 10:00 am - 3 pm: Strategy Retreat for 2023-2024. The meeting will be held at the Gatekeeper’s House, 312 Lanier St., Asheboro. Lunch will be provided.

May 15, June/July Newsletter deadline

May 20, Saturday: Congressional District Conventions; time and venue TBA.

Check our Facebook page (facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty) and website (randolphcountydems.org) often for information and updates. We have many opportunities to make a difference in Randolph County in the coming months.

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Native Plants Act will Benefit Pollinators

by Ruth Held

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water.”
— Douglas W. Tallamy

I’m sure most of you have heard of Doug Tallamy. He writes best-selling books and tours the country giving serious but entertaining talks, some of which are posted on YouTube. Dr. Tallamy is a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware and is a kind of Rachel Carson of our age. His first book, *Bringing Nature Home* (2007), sparked a national conversation about the alarming decline in wildlife, primarily due to overdevelopment and the introduction of non-native species from other parts of the world. His most recent book, *Nature’s Best Hope* (2020) advocates for homeowners everywhere to turn their yards into “conservation corridors” that provide habitat for wildlife. We can do this by eliminating non-native species, especially those that are invasive (like English ivy) and adding plants native to our region, especially keystone species (like oak trees) that support native insects, birds, and other animals.

You may have heard that the North Carolina Senate passed a bill (Senate Bill 628 <https://legiscan.com/NC/text/S628/2021>) last year that will greatly increase pollinator habitat. It requires the use of native plants and seeds on state property and highways, and for local projects that use state funds for landscaping. Its primary sponsors were Republican Senators Bill Rabon and Tom McInnis, and it passed unanimously.

The North Carolina House is now considering the bill (S318, Native Plants Act) and there is reportedly some opposition to it. The New Hope Audubon Society (of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties) has a petition for garden-related businesses — nurseries, garden centers, landscaping contractors, and others — to support this bill. New Hope Audubon presented the petition with 64 signatures to members of the House on their Advocacy Day in March. They are still recruiting businesses to sign the petition on their website. If you know of a business that might benefit from this bill, please let them know about it: <https://nc.audubon.org/news/nc-native-plants-bill-business-sign-list?> The rest of us can contact our Randolph County House members and ask them to support this bill.

We are all dependent on the natural world. We can save nature by changing the way we landscape: **Nature’s Best Hope is You.**

