

Nova Liberty

October 1, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 2



NOVA EVENTS

www.lpva.com

BARBEQUE FOR MCBRIDE
October 5, Sunday, at
1:00 p.m. at Ken Morrison's home, 12314 Colby Dr., Woodbridge, VA.
RSVP to Ken at 703-494-3107

LPFC CONVENTION
5:30 p.m., at Chuck Eby's home, 4572 Fair Valley Dr., Fairfax. Contact Chairman Jim Turbett, 703-750-9125 or Fairfax@lpva.com

NOVA POT LUCK DINNER PARTIES, 7:00 P.M.
October 18, 2003
RSVP Steve Dasbach, 703-241-8436, 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church.
November 8, 2003
RSVP Chuck Eby, 703-378-1188, 4572 Fair Valley Dr., Fairfax, across from Fair Lakes Shopping Center
December 13, 2003
RSVP Marta Howard, 703-938-4878, 216 Elm St. S.W., Vienna, VA

NOVA SOCIAL HOUR
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Hamburger Hamlet Crystal Square shopping center. Call Dana Johansen, 703-960-9120, or email Farlandria@lpva.com

LPFC MEETINGS.
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m. Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd (come at 6:45 p.m. for the buffet dinner)

Libertarian Party of Fairfax Convention Nov. 8

LPFC Members: In less than two weeks you will be receiving your official notification of the 2003 LPFC Convention in the mail. This year the convention will be held at 5:30 on November 8 and will be followed immediately by the monthly pot luck dinner.

The only known order of business is the election of a new County Committee, consisting of six members. As of right now only four people are running for election. Although the County Committee can function with fewer than six people, it is less desirable. If you have any interest at all, I urge you to run for this office; if you are not sure, I would be glad to discuss the duties associated with the position and answer any questions. Contact me at Fairfax@LPVA.com.

The County Committee resembles the parliament in a European system. It is the "legislative branch", setting programs in motion, funding them, and monitoring them. It elects

(See *CONVENTION* page 2)

Major Endorsement! McBride for Supervisor

In a development that has had an enormous political impact on Prince William County politics, Robert McBride's campaign for a seat on the Board of County Supervisors received a boost from an unlikely source on September 16th, when incumbent Supervisor Ruth Griggs (R-Occoquan) withdrew her support for her own party's nominee and endorsed McBride.

The enthusiastic endorsement and the resulting publicity has propelled the campaign into the forefront of the race and made a McBride victory much more likely.

The following week's release of campaign finance reports revealed that McBride had more campaign funds available than his opponents, illustrating the lack of enthusiasm and monetary support being felt by the two major parties' nominees.

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from among its members a Chairman, who heads the “executive branch”. The members of the County Committee choose their meeting schedule and location each year, so the current arrangement should not be a deterrent.

The primary commitment of a County Committee member is to attend the meetings and deliberate with the other members for the good of the County party. Again I urge you to consider seeking this position.

We also need people to attend the convention in order to have a quorum. A business convention may not be exciting, but it shouldn't be long either, and it will be followed by a pot luck dinner, which is always fun. If you cannot come or choose not to come or are not sure if you'll come, then please send in an “attendance proxy”. This is simply a statement that you permit yourself to be counted as present for quorum purposes only. No one will vote in your name. In order to submit one of these, all you need to do is to send an email to the above email address that says something like “You may count me as present at the LPFC convention on Nov. 8, 2003.”

Jim Turbett, Current Chairman

STATE POLITICIANS LYING LOW WITH LURKING TAX INCREASE PLAN
by Jim Turbett

Governor Warner came into office with big plans to “restructure” the Virginia taxation system. As Republican activist Jim Parmelee has astutely pointed out, no politician would seek to revise the tax system and risk offending the interests whose taxes would go up – unless embedded in the plan is the means to higher taxes.

The complaints about the current tax system from the higher tax coalition consisting of Chambers of Commerce, Northern Virginia developers, local governments, Democrats generally, and senior Republi-

can Senators and Delegates generally are these: (1) Local governments are “too dependent on the real estate tax”; (2) The tax structure is (allegedly) based on a 19th century agricultural economy and is therefore “antiquated”; (3) The income tax isn't “progressive” enough; (4) Services are untaxed while goods are taxed; (5) Counties such as Fairfax resemble cities but have the restrictions associated with rural jurisdictions; and (6) The “Dillon Rule” (which states that localities are creations of the state of Virginia and have only the powers granted by the state government) prevents government from being close to the people and hamstring the will of the people in the localities.

That's what they say. Here's what they mean: Regarding the dependence on the real estate tax, Fairfax County has approximately 100 taxes and (non-user) fees right now. They dare not raise any of them very much at any one time, and people scream about the already sizeable annual real estate tax increases, so the county would like to have taxes that are withheld rather than paid by check and would rather have the state collect money and turn it over to them. So when you hear that the county is too dependent on the real estate tax, that translates into the county wanting you to pay a local income tax.

On the 19th century tax structure, who know what this means. It's simply a way to disparage the current system and generate support for having a different system of their devise. Clearly major changes have been made to Virginia's taxation since 1900.

“Not progressive enough” means that achievement isn't being punished enough. It's not enough that some

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Fairfax County LP Committees

Were you wondering who serves on various FCLP committees? Glad you asked, here is a list – and if you are interested in helping, please contact Chairman Jim Turbett at Fairfax@lpva.com or 703-750-9125.

County Commitee:

- Jim Turbett, Chairman
- Marta Howard, Treasurer
- Chuck Eby
- Fred Childress
- Mat Thexton
- Scott Wakeman

Committees:

Booth
Vacant

Fundraising

Mat Thexton

Newsletter

Marianne Volpe

Social

Judy Herzog

Website

Fred Childress

Nova Liberty is published four times a year by the LPFC.

If you would like to respond to any articles, or send articles, forward them to mvolpe@starpower.net

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Arlington County LP News

The Arlington County LP has met for some time at several locations in Arlington, most recently Tutto Bene Restaurant on Randolph St. Chairman Shaun Whelden will relocate future meetings to the home of Marcia Strasel, and details for the October meeting will be sent to members by postcard. Are you interested in ALP activities? Send Chairman Whelden an email at shaunw@liberateschool.com and he will send you notices.

Prince William County LP News

Robert McBride's campaign for Supervisor in the Occoquan District has energized the PWCLP this year. Members continue to come out every weekend and during the week to help Robert distribute literature. On Sunday, October 5, a fundraising event is planned, and all are welcome to attend. For more information about Robert's campaign, check his website, <http://www.mcbride2003.com/>, or call his campaign at 703-499-9058, or email mcbride03@lpva.com.

McBride Fundraiser – You are invited!

Come on out and support Robert McBride's bid for the Prince William Board of County Supervisors!

When: Sunday, Oct 5, 1 p.m.

Where: Ken Morrison's deck (weather permitting), 12314 Colby Drive., Woodbridge, VA

Cost: Admission and Dixie Bones barbecue is free; we'll run a cash bar and pass the hat at the event. Redskins? Don't worry - the game isn't until 4 p.m., and it will be on at Ken's house as well as a local sports bar.

RSVP by Oct 2 so we'll know how much barbecue to buy. Ken's number is 703-494-3107.

Directions to Ken's:

From I-95 (either direction), take the 123 North (Occoquan) exit just south of the Fairfax County border. Follow 123 a short distance to the Old Bridge Road intersection (large intersection with three left turn lanes). Turn left and follow Old Bridge Road for a little more than a mile. After you pass Tacketts Mill shopping center get in the right lane. Turn right at the light onto Colby Drive. Follow Colby for about a half mile. Ken's house (12314 Colby) will be on the left.

Special Campaign School. A three day campaign school will be held for potential candidates, campaign managers, campaign volunteers and activists on November 14-17, 2003, at the Best Western Kings Quarters, 16102 Theme Park Way, Doswell, VA 23047. Cost: \$35 per person, \$30 for students, payable to the LPVA, and payment is needed by November 7, 2003. Rooms are available for a special rate of \$35/night, call Christine at 804-876-3321 to reserve. Questions or more info needed? Contact contact Bill Lawry (cmci@fcc.net, 703-730-8530) or Tom Cantrell (ptc@cantrell.ws) of the Campaign Training Subcommittee for more information.

10th Congressional District Convention

There will be a Constitutional Convention on October 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at Tony's NY Pizza, 11674 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas (Bull Run Plaza) on October 16, 2003. If you are a member in the 10th CD, please attend this event where a Constitution will be adopted and new officers will be elected. For more information, please contact Chuck Eby at 10cd@lpva.com or 703-378-1188, or Philip Hodson at PhilipHods@aol.com or 703-257-1712.

11th Congressional District Convention

The 11th Congressional District Convention will be November 17, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at Pizzeria Uno, 2680 Prince William Parkway, Woodbridge, VA, 22192. If you are a member of the 11th CD, please attend this event to elect new officers. For more information, please contact Bill Lawry at 11cd@lpva.com or 703-730-8530 or LPVA Chairman Steve Damerell at Chair@lpva.com or 703-851-4674.

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We are sending this newsletter primarily by email to keep costs down. If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, it may be because you are new to the LP, new to the area, or we may have missed you with the previous issue. In the future you will only receive Nova Liberty by email only. We want to be able to apprise you of the activities of your local Libertarian Party, so please send us your email address. If you are concerned about spam and excess email, we suggest that you use a second account, from a free provider like Hotmail or Yahoo. Please do it today and send it to Fairfax@LPVA.com. Thank you for your help. Jim Turbett, Chairman LPFC

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citizens have to pay more than others. It's not even enough that some citizens have to pay a higher percentage of their income than others. It needs to be worse in the eyes of the pro-tax crowd. Humorously, they have found one situation (something like income level at \$22,000 and family of four) in which a Virginian pays marginally more income tax than the equivalent person in New York, and Governor Warner and his allies are trumpeting this one situation as representative of a big problem, one they would likely solve by having a greater number of Virginians pay more than New Yorkers.

The taxation of services would harm small business such as dry cleaners, chimney sweeps, and what have you, and you can imagine what a sales tax on lawyers fees and tax preparation fees would do to you. There is no talk of lowering the sales tax rate on goods to bring goods and services closer together in tax treatment.

We in Fairfax County are blessed with the requirement that certain taxes must be approved in referendum before enacted. And we citizens have exercised our own form of "local control" by turning down a 4% meals tax in 1993, 58% to 42%, and turning down a ½% sales tax in 2002, 55% to 45%. Our county officials resent the fact that cities such as Alexandria can just pass meals, hotels, and other taxes on a whim of City Council. So when they speak of "equalization of city and county powers", you know they're not pleading for a referendum requirement in cities.

Last, what about this Dillon Rule? On the face of it, it sounds like these local politicians are conservatives pleading for small local government and opposing big government in distant Richmond. Some on the right are drawn to this view, but the most consistent opposition to the Dillon Rule comes from the left, the people who don't believe that States ought to be anything more than federal administrative districts. Why is that? It's because not a single power sought by a local government is one that would enhance your freedom – just the opposite. In fact, if they had their way, they would have their own little Dillon Rule at the county level. It would say "Citizens are creations of the local government and only have the rights permitted them by the county."

Warner has had this in his mind since the beginning of his term. He has been scorched by the results of the sales tax referendum last fall, and the recent Alabama vote certainly didn't embolden him. His coalition is the exact same crowd that tried to shove the sales tax down our throat, and they know the people don't want higher taxes. So their strategy is to defer discussing the details of their "tax restructuring" plan until right after the election. Then the legislators can pass their plan and have two years for Delegates and four years for Senators to be immune from voter wrath. In the meantime they all pledge "revenue neutrality," which is a pledge that can only be kept for one year at most, for in their plan is the germ of easy tax increases. Also, Governor Warner is donating massive amounts of money to opponents of anti-tax incumbents.

People seemingly in the know describe the plan as follows: The death tax, BPOL tax, and car tax would be eliminated (which is good). The income tax would have many more rates, and the graduation would be much steeper. Localities would either receive a portion of the income tax or would have the power to impose an income tax (and other taxes) without referendum. Services would be taxed. To the extent that federal law allows, the internet would be taxed. Possibly taxation powers to school boards would be included. "'Sin taxes' would be tremendously increased. In particular the cigarette tax would be increased over 1600%!"

So in races in which there is no Libertarian, you might want to ask the available candidates about their positions on "tax restructuring." If the response you get back contains the phrases "insufficient revenue," "underfunded schools," "antiquated," "overdependence on the real estate tax," or "equalization of taxing powers," then you know you've got a baddy on your hands.

Preserving Barns the Free-Market Way By [Scott McPherson](#) September 15, 2003

There is a conflict over barns in New England. A man named Ken Epworth, a New Yorker, has formed a business called the Barn People, which specializes in disassembling 18th-century and 19th-century barns and reassembling them as attachments to expensive homes elsewhere.

Locals are reacting angrily, accusing Epworth of taking away their heritage. "They want a little bit of New England history," said Vince Kuharik, of

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(MCBRIDE from page 1)

The upsurge in McBride's chances of winning has already caused members of the county's Republican party to begin a negative campaign, warning voters of McBride's association with the LP and a few of the more controversial positions advocated by some of its members.

McBride, who is forced by county election law to run as an Independent, says he is not trying to distance himself from the party, but is focusing his message on the local issues of most importance to the voters.

McBride's first face-to-face debate with his opponents will take place on October 2nd in Lake Ridge, a community that makes up a large part of Prince William County's Occoquan District, which he hopes to represent

on the county board.

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Meredith, New Hampshire, of those who purchase the old barns. "But it's our history, not theirs."

Unfortunately, people such as Kuharik fail to see that it isn't "history" that's being moved; it's a piece of property, and ownership of that particular asset rests, rightfully, with whoever has purchased it.

In the case of the barns, the purchaser/owner is a business called the Barn People, and as soon as the deed is handed over, the barn becomes the property of the business to do with as it pleases.

No one is stopping New Englanders from purchasing these barns themselves to prevent them from being moved away. Clearly, the owners of the barns feel that they are of little or no value in their present location and condition, which is why they sell them to Epworth.

In a sense, then, Epworth's business is actually doing a good historical deed — by purchasing, restoring, and selling the barns to wealthy homeowners, he is engaging in a form of historical preservation.

Obviously the locals don't see it that way. Fine. They are free to purchase the barns themselves, and face the responsibility of "preserving history" themselves. This would require that they expend the resources necessary to maintain these old structures, just as Epworth's Barn People are now doing. Instead, they would rather browbeat Epworth for investing his own resources in the buildings, which New Englanders claim to love so much but often leave to decay and ruin. One town is even using eminent domain to stop his efforts.

The Barn People could just as easily have been a private New England preservation society dedicated to the ownership and upkeep of historical properties.

Ken Epworth should not be blamed for the failure of New Englanders to fully understand the value of "their" own history or for profiting from the wisdom they lack.

Also see "[*Historical Preservation and the Market.*](#)"

Scott McPherson is a policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation.
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NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTARIANS

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Nova Liberty

NOVA POT LUCK PARTY - YOU ARE INVITED!

Every month the Northern Virginia Libertarians have a dinner at someone's home, and you are invited. The recent hosts of these parties are Anne and Scott Wakeman, Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog, Fred Childress, and Marta and Nat Howard. This is a great way to get together with other Libertarians and share laughs and good conversation in a relaxing environment.

This is a "pot luck" dinner, so all you need to do is bring a dish of your favorite fare, something you would be proud to share with others, and come casual. If you cannot think of something to bring, just call Judy or Chuck at 703-378-1188 for menu suggestions. If you have kids, please bring them – and please help with a bit of "kid watch."

Would you like to host a party at your home, community center, or friend's home? Please contact Judy and Chuck and tell them – the more hosts, the better.

