

◆ Nova Liberty ◆

Volume 5, Issue 4

July-August, 2005

NOVA EVENTS www.lpva.com

NOVA POT LUCK DINNER PARTIES, 7:00 P.M.

July 23 and August 27, 2005

Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.
RSVP Marta and Nat Howard, 216 Elm St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180, 703-938-4979, email marta@pupworks.com.

LPFC Annual Convention, November 13, 2005. Time: approximately 6:00 p.m., place to be decided. Please contact Chair Tony Torres for more information at Chair@lpfx.com.

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: johansendr@starpower.net

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

LP OF VIRGINIA STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. SEPTEMBER 10, 2005, LOCATION TO BE DECIDED IN TIDEWATER, 1:00-4:00 PM
The SCC meeting is open to all members. Contact the Steve Damerell, for more information at Chair@lpva.com or 703-851-4674

Greetings from the Chair

By Tony Torres

I want to begin by wishing everyone a wonderful summer and a safe, fun, and happy Independence Day! The Libertarian Party of Fairfax County (LPFC) has been extremely active since the last time I wrote to you and I'm pleased to let you know what we are up to and our plans for the coming months. I also want to discuss the recent Supreme Court rulings and what we are doing about them.

In the last month the LPFC has held two very successful outreach events. The first event, Celebrate Fairfax, allowed us to spend two and a half days reaching out to people from all over the county and Northern Virginia. We received requests for more information from 43 fairgoers, nearly double the total of previ-

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McPherson for Delegate: It's Time for a Change

By Scott McPherson

As a rule, libertarians are opposed to public education. We understand that providing schools and a compulsory "education" are not consistent with government's legitimate functions. Unsurprisingly, this puts us at the forefront of demanding radical change in the way people think about schools and education.

Our efforts and focus in unveiling the shortcomings of public schools are intended to show the public that government has failed in this capacity. In short, we are parti-



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Fairfax County LP Committees

Are you interested in helping the Libertarian movement grow in Fairfax County? Your help is needed, at outreach events, candidate campaigns, and road clean-up days. If you would like to help, contact Chairman Tony Torres at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com or 571-214-8356.

County Committee Members:

Tony Torres, Chairman
Fred Childress
Chuck Eby
Donny Ferguson
Marianne Volpe
Milan Zacek

Committees:

Booth

Chuck Eby
charles@eby.name

Media Coordinator

Geoff Allen

Newsletter

Marianne Volpe
mvolpe@starpower.net

Social

Fred Childress
fchildress@fastmail.fm

Volunteers Needed for the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County

* Campaigns, House of Delegates. There are three candidates for House of Delegates seats next year in Fairfax County and your help is needed. Please contact Chairman Tony Torres to find out how you can help them make a difference next year at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com or 571-214-8356.

* Adopt-A-Highway road clean-up, tbd. This is a fun way to let people know Libertarians care about their community. If you have a few hours on a Saturday in the coming months, please contact Chuck Eby at Webmaster@lpva.com or 703-855-8767 to volunteer.

* Event Volunteers. We will have booths at fairs and gun shows this year, and we need your help - all it takes is a few hours. What better way to enjoy the company of your fellow Libertarians and to share your political beliefs with others? If can spare a few hours, please email or call Chuck Eby.

* Fundraising, Membership, Volunteer Coordinators. We need more volunteers to champion these activities to help us grow in 2005. Please contact the Chairman at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com to find out how you can help.

DON'T HAVE TIME TO HELP? YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED, SEE PAGE 3

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ous years. I have contacted them all individually and thanked them for their interest. We interacted with hundreds of fair-goers and were able to debate many of them on the issues. Our booth was perfectly located along the principal thoroughfare, placing us directly in the path of most fairgoers. Celebrate Fairfax is an event that was well worth the money, gave our candidates excellent exposure, and was well worth the time and money invested.

The LPFC just completed a joint outreach event with the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA) June 24-26, 2005, at the Old Dominion Beer Festival. This event gave us a chance to interact with a different crowd and one that was much friendlier toward us than the one at Celebrate Fairfax. Dozens of people approached our booth and thanked us for being there. Many of them were already members of the Libertarian Party. Others bragged that they had voted for Michael Badnarik for president. Two Loudoun County Republicans approached me and expressed their dissatisfaction with the Republican Party. They also informed me they had voted for Badnarik. This booth was officially funded by the LPVA and not the LPFC, but I am proud to say that at least half the volunteers were from Fairfax County.

Our intent with this booth was to attempt to reach a different crowd of people and to hopefully get some growth going in the Libertarian Party of Loudoun County. We collected contact information for 50 people at the Old Dominion Beer Festival, making it an even more successful event than Celebrate Fairfax.

In July we are planning an outreach event at Reston Festival on July 9th and 10th to help the campaign of Donny Ferguson and a home-schooling conference on July 8th and 9th to help Scott McPherson's campaign. We also are attempting to get a booth at the C&E Gun Show at the end of July at the Dul-

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

This year the LPFC has ambitious plans for more outreach booths, at events like Celebrate Fairfax and gun shows. This is a great way to educate voters about our Party and find new members. These events cost money, though, so we need your support. Please help the LPFC by pledging your support on a monthly basis, or by making a one time donation. Mail the form below to: LPFC, PO Box 31, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Yours in liberty,
Tony Torres, LPFC Chairman

Yes! I would like to support the LPFC by making a monthly pledge.

I would like to pledge \$ _____ per month.

Here is my one time donation of \$ _____.



Charge my Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover
(I understand that my credit card bill will show a charge to the LPVA)

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRES ON

SIGNATURE

OCCUPATION*

EMPLOYER

EMPLOYMENT LOCATION**

*Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible

**Virginia law requires all committees to report the name, mailing address, job title or profession and name of employer or employer's specific field for each individual whose cumulative contributions aggregate is in excess of \$100 in an election cycle.

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les Expo Center in Chantilly.

Finally, I will be working with the LPVA on a response to the two recent disastrous Supreme Court decisions. The first, on medical marijuana makes legalization of marijuana at the state level a dangerous action. The second decision, the *Kelo* case on eminent domain and property rights, has quickly overshadowed the marijuana issue. The Libertarian Party of Fairfax County swiftly denounced the decision along with several other local Libertarian Party affiliates in Virginia, the LPVA, and the national party. Particular praise should go to Geoff Allen, our new media relations coordinator, for quickly getting out a press release after only just taking the position a few weeks earlier. This press release resulted in an interview with the *Washington Examiner* in which I explained how everyone is affected by this decision.

The LPFC urges all Libertarians (and all Americans) to contact their local county supervisors, state legislators, congressmen and senators and insist that they enshrine respect for property rights in law. The LPFC joins with the LPVA in calling for a constitutional amendment to constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia to achieve this purpose. I promise you that your local party will do everything it can to secure your property rights at the state, local, and federal level. This issue is an issue that the American people now understand the importance of and it is an issue that the Libertarian Party can and should show leadership. I wish everyone a wonderful summer. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help to any of you.

Candidates Abound at "Celebrate Fairfax!"

By Chuck Eby

Fairfax – June 13, 2005 – The Libertarian Party of Fairfax County hosted a very successful outreach booth at this past weekend's "Celebrate Fairfax!" – Fairfax County's annual county fair. Fifteen activists helped staff the highly visible booth, 260 "World's Smallest Political Quizzes" were administered, and contact information was gathered on 43 fairgoers requesting more information.

"We've been holding an annual booth at Celebrate Fairfax! for as long as anyone can remember," said Tony Torres, chairman of the county party. "Because of the splendid location of the booth, and our large number of inquiries, this has been one of our most successful," Torres added.



Candidates – both Libertarian and Republican – abounded at this year's event. Libertarian Party candidates for the House of Delegates Donny Ferguson, Chuck Eby, and Scott McPherson spent several shifts meeting voters and handing out campaign literature at the booth. Republican gubernatorial candidates George Fitch and H. Russell Potts dropped in on the LP booth to talk with Libertarian activists. In addition, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore, and Republican candidate for Lt. Governor Sean Connaughton worked the crowds at the fair.

The county fair was well attended by local media. Christina Bellantoni, Virginia reporter for the *Washington Times*, stopped by the booth on Saturday morning and interviewed both Donny Ferguson and Chuck Eby. Ari Cetron, a reporter for the *Times*, a local weekly newspaper dropped in to chat with candidates and activists.

The Libertarian Party of Fairfax would like to thank the activists who staffed the booth for making this event so successful. These include Geoff Allen, Fred Childress, Marcia Childress, Steve Damerell, Jessica Damon, Josh Dunn, Chuck Eby, Donny Ferguson, Michael Hillman, Scott McPherson, Patrick Opitz, Tony Torres, Marianne Volpe, Shaun Whelden, and Milan Zacek.

Press Release Gets Response

The following press release by LPFC Media Coordinate Geoff Allen resulted in an interview of LPVA Chairman Tony Torres in the National Examiner.

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Media Contact:

Geoff Allen, Media Relations Coordinator

email@geoffemail.com

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CONDEMNS SUPREME COURT EMINENT DOMAIN DECISION

Libertarians in Fairfax County are extremely disappointed in today's decision by the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court has effectively eliminated property rights from the Constitution today, in spite of the explicit wishes of the Founders to the contrary," stated Libertarian Party of Fairfax County Chair Tony Torres. "The Founding Fathers, like most Americans, understood that private property was the foundation of a free society."

The Court ruled 5-4 in favor of New London, CT against working class homeowners fighting to save their homes.

The decision will allow local communities to seize property from law-abiding people and hand it over to well-connected developers and businesses under the excuse of economic development and increasing tax revenue. Someone's nice house could be replaced by a shopping center if local officials deem it necessary.

Mr. Torres concluded, "The Libertarian Party of Fairfax County urges Fairfax County residents to contact their local and state officials and demand that they enshrine the respect for private property in law. Americans need to let their elected officials know that abuse of eminent domain will not be tolerated."



County Chairman Tony Torres, County Committee Member and Candidate for House of Delegates Chuck Eby, and County Committee Member Milan Zacek at "Celebrate Fairfax."

Nova Liberty is published in electronic form six times a year for the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County. The editors, Marianne Volpe, Marta Howard and Nick Weishampel, welcome your comments. If you have articles or opinion pieces on issues of the day, please forward them to mvolpe@starpower.net.

***Thank you,
Marianne, Marta and Nick***

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sans *against* government-run schools – and anyone who knows what we stand for is well aware of this fact.

So maybe we should stop criticizing the schools. Maybe we should let the regime's *advocates* speak for us instead. For instance, consider remarks made by Bill Gates, an outspoken proponent of public schooling, earlier this year, when he said that schools are "limiting, even ruining, the lives of millions" of kids every year. "If we keep the system as it is," he said, "millions of children will never get a chance to fulfill their promise." In a similar vein, Virginia's Democratic governor Mark Warner said that high schools are experiencing a "crisis" and "must be targeted for comprehensive reform and sustained change."

Strong words. Unfortunately, people like Bill Gates and Mark Warner believe that fixing education means giving more money to school bureaucrats, enabling them to continue their flawed and tragic experiment on the minds of America's young people. As the Libertarian candidate for Virginia House of Delegates, District 37, I intend to remind people, every chance I get, that even those who love public schools recognize that they are failing. Miserably.

And I want an opportunity to explain to the voters of this district that an alternative exists to the same tired old rhetoric and promises of teachers unions, education bureaucrats, and other public officials. In an April 1, 2005 op-ed published by *The Washington Times*, I made a case for granting property tax credits to those who choose to opt-out of the public school system, giving parents back their own money so that they can find the educational model that works best for them and their children. This policy would likely spur a renaissance in educational alternatives, making Virginia a true leader, not in "school choice", but in *educational choice*, providing just the kind of "comprehensive reform and sustained change" that Governor Warner says he wants.

Another issue of concern to Northern Virginians is traffic. We live in a region where people experience 30-minute and even hour-long commutes because of gridlock. My position is simple: turn the roads over to private owners who can charge drivers according to *demand* – during peak travel periods, the price would rise, pricing many drivers out of the single-passenger market and creating a huge incentive for profit-minded entrepreneurs to implement radical and innovative new transportation ideas.

When I became involved with the Libertarian movement eight years ago, "private roads" were often held up as the quintessential "kooky" libertarian idea. Today, New York Governor George Pataki, a Republican, wants to change state law to allow for the privatizing of roads, bridges and byways; a *Washington Post* poll in January found considerable support for "adjustable tolls" (tolls that rise with demand); and cities like London and Singapore are using "congestion taxes" to discourage driving in highly congested areas. Obviously, people are looking to put a price on driving, and I believe the time is ripe to articulate the libertarian case for private roads.

The recent Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo V. New London* provides further evidence that government cannot be trusted. Now that the "law of the land" is that private property can be seized, not for "public" use as the Constitution intended, but to raise tax revenues and line the pockets of certain private interests, citizens need to know that their legislators are concerned for their property rights and will fight to protect them from government abuse. I propose a state constitutional amendment be passed to protect Virginians against just the kinds of abuses that Americans have been suffering for years in the name of "eminent domain", and that *Kelo* will now make a routine nightmare in our supposedly free country.

As a Libertarian candidate, I want to tell voters in the 37th District that a real alternative exists, that they no longer have to choose between dumb and dumber when they go to the polls. Change is possible, but it takes courage.

My passion is freedom, and I love to talk about it. Voters in this district are smart, educated people, and I believe that many libertarian ideas, if properly articulated, will get a fair hearing. The Democrat and Republican candidates I am running against will not get an easy ride through this election. I will contest their flawed ideas at every turn, and insure that voters know the difference between their stale, Republican rhetoric – which promises nothing but more of the same – and genuine Libertarian solutions that will positively impact their lives.

I look forward to representing the Libertarian Party of Virginia in this House of Delegates race. If you would like to help me spread the word, please contact me at 703.359.8988; my campaign manager, Fred Childress, can be reached at 703.786.7482. Donations can be sent to: Friends of McPherson, 2576 Nicky Lane, Alexandria, VA 22311.

Email the Administration to Support Liberty on the GW Pkwy!

By Mike Stollenwerk

Did you know it is illegal to possess any gun in a car on the George Washington Parkway here in NOVA even if you hold a VA Concealed Handgun Permit? The same applies to the Skyline Drive and all other National Parks across the US.

NOVA libertarians should close ranks with the VA Citizens Defense League (www.VCDL.org) and take action at <http://www2.vcdl.org/cgi-bin/wspd.cgi.sh/vcdl/reflector.html?REF=PRM&PRE=prm1> to ask President Bush and Secretary Norton to take action on VCDL's petition for rulemaking ("PRM") to require the US National Parks to adopt the same proven gun rights polices as now in force in US National Forests and simply let the states make gun rules applicable to federal parks as they now do for federal forests. See the actual PRM at http://www.vcdl.org/new/Petition_for_Rulemaking.pdf.

State Central Committee Meeting Report June 25, 2005

The State Central Committee (SCC) of the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA) met in Centreville, Virginia, on Saturday, June 25, 2005. A short, but by no means complete, list of some of the issues addressed follows. The official minutes are available at: www.lpva.com.

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the last meeting were approved with changes previously submitted to the Secretary.

New Business addressed by the body included the following motions:

1. Motion by Marc Montoni to adopt a Policy Document proposal re candidate endorsement and funding. The motion **FAILED** on a roll-call vote.
2. Motion by Kevin McKenna to incorporate the LPVA. The motion **PASSED** on a voice vote.
3. Motion by Marianne Volpe to eliminate surplus from candidate fundraising. The motion **PASSED** on a show of hands.
4. Motion Marianne Volpe to authorize chair to disburse funds to candidates without further action by the SCC. The motion was **WITHDRAWN** without objection.
5. Motion by Jeff Bowles to "direct the Legislative Committee to prepare draft legislation for this concerning eminent domain, restricting it to actual public uses. The proposed language of the legislation will be presented at the next SCC meeting or via e-vote." The motion **PASSED** on a voice vote.

Other issues that were discussed were: the annual State Fair and what resources would be needed to support a booth; the project had support but a leader was needed; the Tidewater LP would approach local office holder Thelma Drake regarding her bill to define public use of property; elections next year include town and city councils and mayor; 2006 Congressional elections and Senator George Allen's seat in the US Senate; the Tidewater LP is recruiting candidates for city council and is working to create a precinct organization.

The next meeting of the SCC will be in the Tidewater area, at a location to be arranged by 2nd Congressional District Committee Chair Tom Cantrell, on Saturday, September 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

Arlington County LP News

The Arlington County LP will have a convention in late July. Please contact Chairman Shaun Whelden for more information. His email address is: shaunw@liberateschool.com, and his phone number is 703-534-1488.

LP of Fairfax County News

The County Committee meets on the third Monday of the month at the Harverst Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be July 18, 2005, and plans for outreach events, candidate support and volunteer recruitment will be discussed. For more information about the LPFC, contact Chairman Tony Torres at Chairman@lpfc.com or 571-214-8356.

The LPFC will have outreach booths at many events in the next few months. Would you like to make this outreach event or others a success? All you need to do is volunteer a few hours of your time - and it is fun. Please contact the Chair to help.

LP of Loudoun County News

Libertarians in Loudoun County meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Nido Italiano, 201 Harrison St SE, Leesburg, VA. Contact Tony Torres for more information at Chairman@lpva.com.

LP of Prince William County News

The LPPWC meets according to a new schedule. Please contact Chairman Kathy Mullin for more information at 703-221-9875 or PrinceWilliam@lpva.com.

Libertarian Party of Virginia Contacts

Officers

Chairman:	Steve Damerell	Chair@lpva.com
ViceChairman:	Leonard Harris	ViceChair@lpva.com
Secretary:	Charlotte Patrick	Secretary@lpva.com
Treasurer:	Kevin McKenna	Treasurer@lpva.com

Local Congressional District (CD) Committee Chairs

First CD:	Kathy Mullin	1CD@lpva.com
Eighth CD:	Marianne Volpe	8CD@lpva.com
Tenth CD:	Chuck Eby	10CD@lpva.com
Eleventh CD:	Pat Snider	11CD@lpva.com

Committee Chairman

Communications:	Shaun Whelden	Communications@lpva.com
Financial:	Donny Ferguson	Fundraising@lpva.com
Local Affiliates:	Jim Lark	Affiliates@lpva.com
Membership:	Marc Montoni	Membership@lpva.com
Political:	Paul Miller	PoliticalDev@lpva.com

Representative to the Libertarian National Committee

Jim Lark JWLark@virginia.edu

At Large Representative to the Libertarian National Committee

Bill Redpath WRedpath@his.com

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

The editors are: Marianne Volpe, mvolpe@starpower.net, or call 703-960-2973, Marta Howard, marta@pupworks.com, and Nick Weishampel, nweishampel@gmail.com. Please contact Marianne if you would like to contribute or help with the next issue. Thank you.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTARIANS

LPFC
c/o LPVA
4201 Wilson Blvd. Ste 100-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Email: Fairfaxlp@lpva.com

In This Issue...

Greetings from the Chair; Time for Change—McPherson for Delegate; Success at “Celebrate Fairfax”, State Central Committee Meeting News and More!

NOVA MONTHLY DINNER PARTY!

Every month the Northern Virginia Libertarians have a pot-luck dinner at someone’s home, and you are invited. The recent hosts of these parties are Steve and Libby Dasbach, Fred and Marcia Childress, and George and Lea Getz. This is a great way to get together with other Libertarians and share laughs and good conversation in a relaxing environment.

The next dinner party starts dinner and a pool party at 7:00 p.m., July 23, 2005, at the home of Marta and Nat Howard at 216 Elm St. SW, Vienna, VA. 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 Marta & Nat at 703-938-4878 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 Chairman Tony Torres at 571-214-8356, or by email at Chairman@fairfaxlp.com – the more hosts, the better.

