

the Lansdowne Leader

November 2018

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

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RIDE THE WOMEN'S WAVE OF 2018

Record Number of Women Candidates in PA

By Catherine Coll

We've heard a lot of speculation lately about a blue wave. What isn't a matter of speculation is that there is a women's wave occurring. A record number of women are running for office in Pennsylvania as well as many other states. Currently, Pennsylvania ranks 49th out of 50 states for representation of women in office, and is currently one of 11 states with no women serving in Congress. With 126 women on the ballot statewide, including PA-5 Congressional nominee Mary Gay Scanlon, we have a chance to remedy that position, although it will take more than one election cycle to achieve gender parity in Pennsylvania.

In June of 2018, the Delaware County Democratic Party elected Colleen Guiney as chair, reflecting the increasing role of women at the local party level. Guiney has quickly swung into action in several exciting races,

Pennsylvania ranks 49th out of 50 states for representation of women in office, and is currently one of 11 states with no women serving in Congress.

including Kristin Seale's in the 168th and Jen O'Mara in the 165th. Lansdowne, ahead of the trend as always, elected Margo Davidson to the 164th in 2010. But we need many more women in the state house, to pass bills like Leanne Krueger-Braneky's #metoo legislation. This

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Mary Gay Scanlon (fourth from left) is one of 126 women on the ballot statewide this year.

REVERSE THE TREND OF INCOME INEQUALITY IN AMERICA

Why Democrats Must Take Back Congress

By Caryl Carpenter

The election in November is critical because the Democrats must take back Congress. Let me count the ways! The Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration have jeopardized many things that Democrats hold dear – voting rights, environmental protection, women's rights, access to health insurance, and

much more. My greatest concern is about how Republicans have succeeded in exacerbating income inequality in this country – a problem of social and economic significance.

What Is Income Inequality?

Income inequality refers to the income gap between the wealthy and the poor – between a six or seven-figure executive and

someone making minimum wage. It also refers to the hollowing out of the middle class.

Inequality results from a combination of income coming in to a family and expenses going out. As income inequality has expanded over the last few decades, it is harder for working class and middle income families to make ends meet and almost impossible for low income families to make ends meet.

Wages and salaries of most Americans have been growing at a very low rate over the last 30 years. At the same time, many family expenses have grown exponentially. Compare the generation currently in their 70s and 80s to those in their 50s. Those in their 50s and younger:

Pay more out-of-pocket for health care. Those with employer-sponsored health insurance pay a larger share of the premium today and have higher deductibles and co-pays. The underlying cost of health care has increased faster than inflation which is why employers pass more of the cost onto employees. Those who do not get insurance from their employers typically have bare-bones policies with very high deductibles and many services uncovered if they have coverage at all.

Pay more for child care. Since most families have two parents working, they must pay for child care, pre-school, and after-school care. This was not true 40 years ago.

Pay more for higher education. The cost of college, like health care, has grown much faster than people's incomes. Many families take on huge debt to finance higher education for their kids. That debt is a burden to the graduate as well as the

family for many years. States have cut back on funding for state universities and colleges, making families bear a larger share of tuition. Opportunities for Federal loans and grants have decreased.

Save less for retirement. The percent of the workforce with a defined benefit pension has declined rapidly. Defined contribution retirement plans (IRAs) typically require the employee to contribute more than was true in the past. Because of all the other rising expenses in life, many people do not contribute to IRAs or other forms of retirement savings. The amount that employers contribute has been declining as well.

Pay more for post-retirement health care. Retirees cannot cover their health care expenses with Medicare alone. Most people need to buy some form of supplemental insurance to cover co-insurance and deductibles, as well as services not covered by Medicare. Because of changes in tax laws, the percent of employers who fund all or part of this supplemental insurance has plummeted. The majority of employers no longer fund post-retirement medical benefits.

The combination of slowly rising incomes for most Americans and increasing costs of living creates a widening gap between the wealthy and everyone else.

How Have Republican Policies Made Matters Worse? The Tax Bill

The tax legislation passed by a Republican Congress and signed by Trump is not tax reform. True tax reform would eliminate loopholes and special tax benefits for corporations, none of which was part of

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MEET TERRY BARALDI

Lansdowne's Raging Granny

By Craig Horle

Since mid-July, folks who pass the intersection of Lansdowne Avenue and Baltimore Pike early on Monday evenings have been witnessing women and men holding signs of protest against policies of the Trump Administration. Horns of passing motorists blare approval, often in unison. What is going on? Who is behind these protests?

It all started in protest against the intolerable and inhumane family separations taking place on our Mexican border. And on July 11, 2018, GrassRoots Delco was born. What follows here are some outtakes from its first, and subsequent postings.

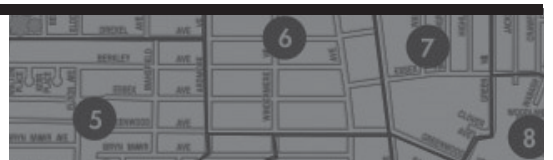
"Now you've done it!" exclaimed Lansdowne activist Terry Baraldi, "Grandma's mad! Here in Delaware

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FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

See map on page 2



CHAIR’S COLUMN

Community Involvement Can’t Rest on November 6th

By Charlotte Hummel

Whether you were born here or just moved here, residents know that Lansdowne is a special place to live. Yes, like any small town in America, especially one in the inner ring suburbs, we have our challenges. We are a built-up community, so development, other than in build-ings and on properties already in place, is not easy. With property taxes being the largest part of education funding, we are overtaxed and under resourced which impacts property values and the quality of education we can provide in our public schools. Our infrastructure is aging (think roads, sewers, public facilities) and while the outer suburbs get subsidies for infrastructure development, the inner ring is on its own. Add to that the recent adminis-tration turning its back on urban areas, and tax and other policies that benefit the 1% over the rest of us, we in Lansdowne (and our surrounding communities) are more on our own than ever before.

That said, we are lucky to live in a town that has been and continues to be populated by creative, innovative, self-reliant and generous people. The local government, non-profits, and individual community activists are undeterred by the challenges and continue to address them as best we can. Whether it’s the economic development work of the Borough Council and the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), the Lansdowne Busi-ness and Professional Association (LBPA), the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation (LTC) and our state and federal representatives we are determined to build a thriv-ing downtown and beyond.

The public William Penn School District (WPSD) does more with less than any other school district around. With decades worth of state level cutbacks, and never end-ing (and sometime losing struggle) to keep local property

There is a major weakness in Lansdowne’s community involvement: In an average election, only 25% of the borough’s 7,000 registered voters go to the polls.

taxes in check, the local school board has also stood up to the powers that be, by taking the lead and initiative in fil-ing a lawsuit for education equity, which is slowly but surely moving to give us our day in court. We have also seen our students thrive and succeed despite the financial limitations – both personal and institutional – and it is with a certain point of pride that other, more wealthy school districts have taken to looking to the WPSD for in-novative and practical ways to do more with less. More-over, our communities get benefits over and above the education program in the use of facilities for community meetings and athletic activities.

When people lament that as hard as we try, we cannot get more outside help and support for the things that our Borough needs – education funding, economic develop-ment aid, infrastructure funds – I have come to rely on the reference from The Wizard of Oz in my response: In Lansdowne, we are wearing our own Ruby Slippers. And we do, indeed.

The level of volunteerism, camaraderie and outright generosity toward out neighbors are characteristics that define us, not only to the outside world but to ourselves. Check out the Farmers Market any Saturday from late May to late October. Run by volunteers from LEDC! Look for the improvements in the Public Library. Fund-

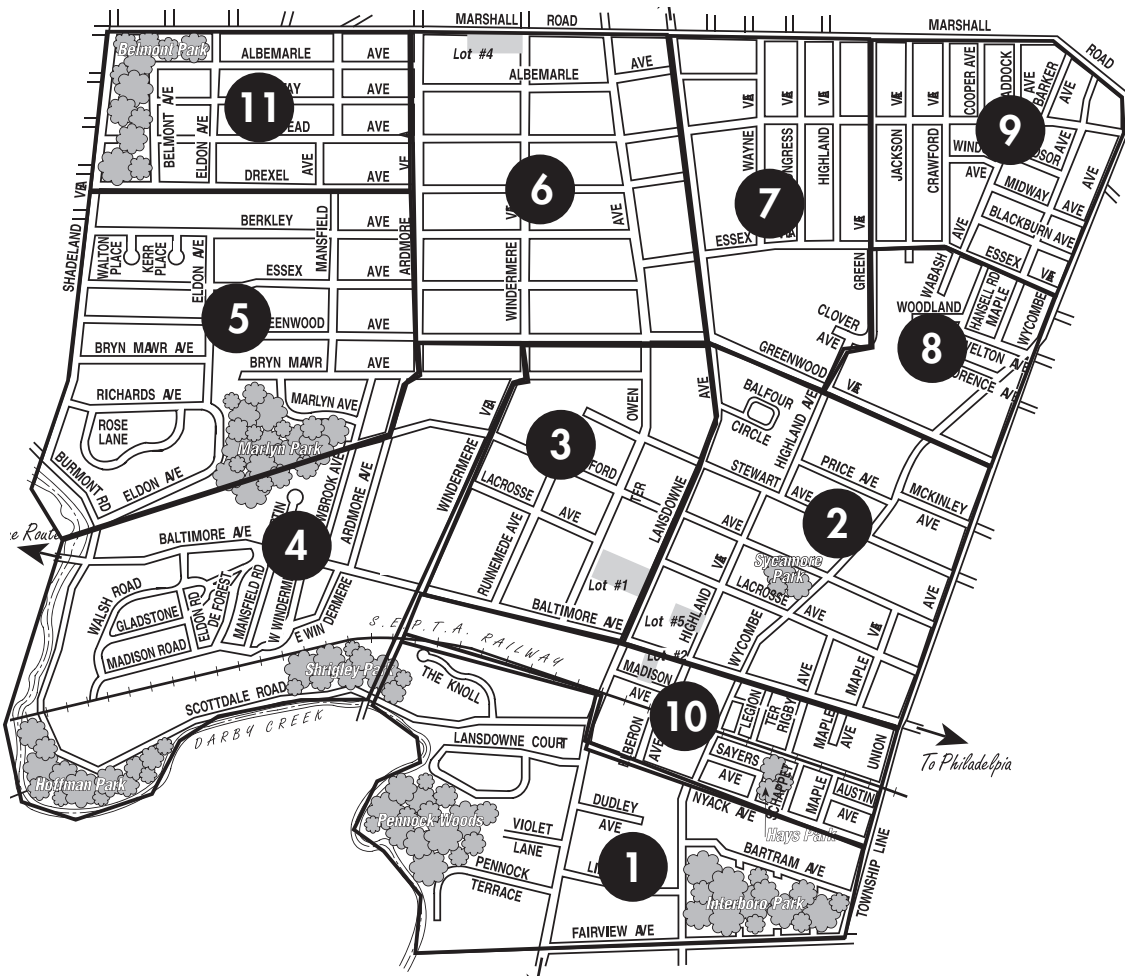
ing and volunteers provided by the Friends of the Lans-downe Public Library (FLPL). Our Fire Department and EMT/Ambulance and Fire Police at Engine 19? All vol-unteers. The list goes on and on. Animal Friends of Lansdowne (AFL). Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra (LSO). Union Athletic Association/July 4th sponsors (UAA). Lansdowne Boys and Girls Club (LBGC). And did you know that all of our Borough Council members and our Mayor are volunteers? Not to mention the dozens of citizens who service on all kind of boards and commissions – Parks and Recreation, Shade Tree Com-mission, the Arts Board, Civil Service Board, Library Board, Human Relations Commission, Zoning, Plan-ning and Historic Architecture Review Board, and a newly formed environmental committee. Citizens can have input through any one or more of these organiza-tions and can also attend the twice a year Mayor’s Fo-rums that address specific Borough issues and proposals. Yet, with all of this, there is a major weakness in our community involvement. A very large piece is missing.

Lansdowne, like too many other places in this coun-try, in many ways fails to do its civic duty. Of the over 7,000 registered voters, in an average election, only 25% of us VOTE. Yep, only 25%. Yes, we have hit some all-time lows in the teens and we have reached some highs in the 40’s, but overall, like many Americans, when it comes time for us to use the greatest tool in our power, we just don’t show up.

This past year a group of concerned citizens have (yes, once again) volunteered their time, talent and resources to educate Lansdowne folks about the importance of voting. Lansdowne Votes along with support from various volun-teer, non-partisan and partisan groups) have make it their mission to increase voter registration and turn out for the

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POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS



1st Precinct Twentieth Century Club, 84 South Lansdowne Avenue	5th Precinct Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance	9th Precinct Pepper Pharmacy, East Plumstead Avenue near Union Avenue
2nd Precinct Lansdowne Fire Company, SW Corner of Highland and LaCrosse Avenues	6th Precinct Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance	10th Precinct Lansdowne Public Library, Nyack Avenue
3rd Precinct Simpson Gardens, Corner of Lansdowne and West Stewart Avenues	7th Precinct Penn Wood High School, Essex Avenue Entrance	11th Precinct* Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance
4th Precinct Simpson Gardens, Corner of Lansdowne and West Stewart Avenues	8th Precinct Penn Wood High School, Essex Avenue Entrance	

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HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Native’s Return to Lansdowne Reveals 20 Years of Progress

By Catherine Coll

In the late 90’s, when I left Lansdowne, there was no Facebook or Twitter. People who had internet used AOL. The Lansdowne Democrats continued the decades-long struggle to find a way to get their perspective represented in the community. Republicans would prevent them from speaking at meetings, and tried their best to prevent them from running for office, but they couldn’t stop them from publishing *The Lansdowne Leader*.

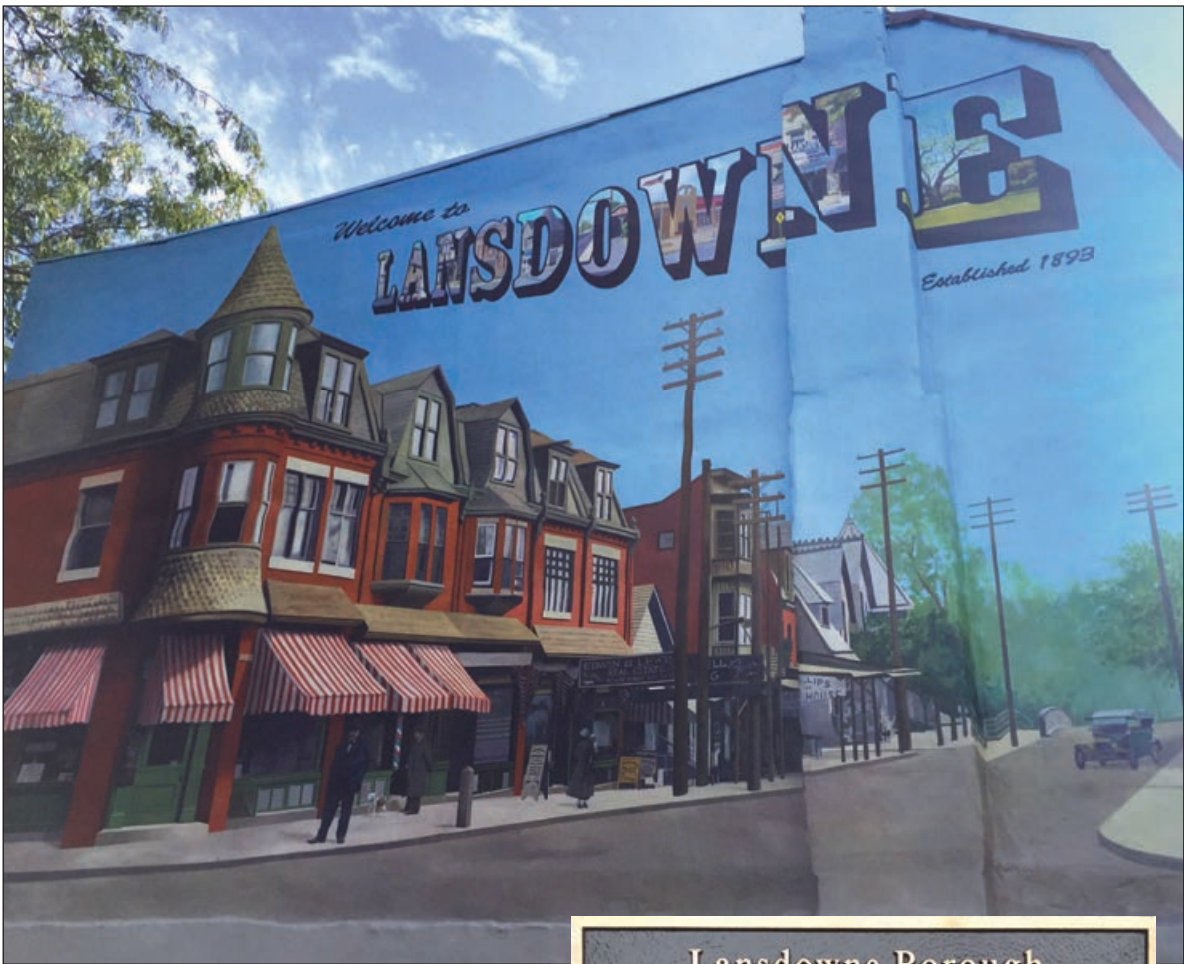
While other towns were losing residents, Lansdowne’s real estate market remained active. As government became more open and transparent, citizens became more engaged.

Twenty years later, the Democrats have taken Lansdowne away from the GOP machine and held it. When I was considering moving back to Lansdowne, people who had left talked about it like it was a post-apocalyptic hell scape. But I found that the town was, if anything, better than it had been. It was amazing how people could have such wildly different perceptions about the same place. Exciting, thriving businesses lined Lansdowne Avenue, the town real estate market thriving, the town was much more diverse, and everyone was much more welcoming than I remembered. How was this happening while so many other Delco towns were hollowed out and devastated by opioid addiction? In 2015, when I first moved back, I was still employed with the federal government and had some reasons not to get back into politics. Like so many people after the 2016 election happened, I knew I could no longer stay on the sidelines. That’s when I started to find out much more about Lansdowne’s success.

I joined my local Democratic committee, a vital first step for anyone who wants to get more involved in politics. Once I’d committed to learning about how the *Leader* is published, Democratic Committee Chair and long-time editor, Charlotte Hummel dropped off a bag containing a stack of papers - *The Lansdowne Leader* archives. As I worked my way through the stack, I learned a lot about our history that I hadn’t known about while it was happening, and there was much that was familiar in the story. The Republicans were accustomed to total control of everything, and ruled by fiat, without transparency. Some were rewarded with generous patronage jobs, and others received no-strings cash infusions straight into their

businesses. Attempts to introduce accountability were met with indignation from the Republicans along with attempts to silence people from speaking out. Sound familiar? Although two Democrats won election

to County Council in 2017, they do not yet have the majority they need to introduce the most basic measures of financial accountability to the process of bidding and
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New Mural Honors 125th Anniversary

Inspired by history and old photographs, Mayor Tony Campuzano and residents Matt Schultz and Richard Prigg discussed the possibility of marking the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Borough with a mural. With Welcome to Lansdowne and a depiction of the original corner of Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenues, the mural was designed and painted by artist James Schuster. The mural was dedicated on Saturday, October 13, 2018.



MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR OPEN SPACES

An Investment in Our Parks

By Ben Hover

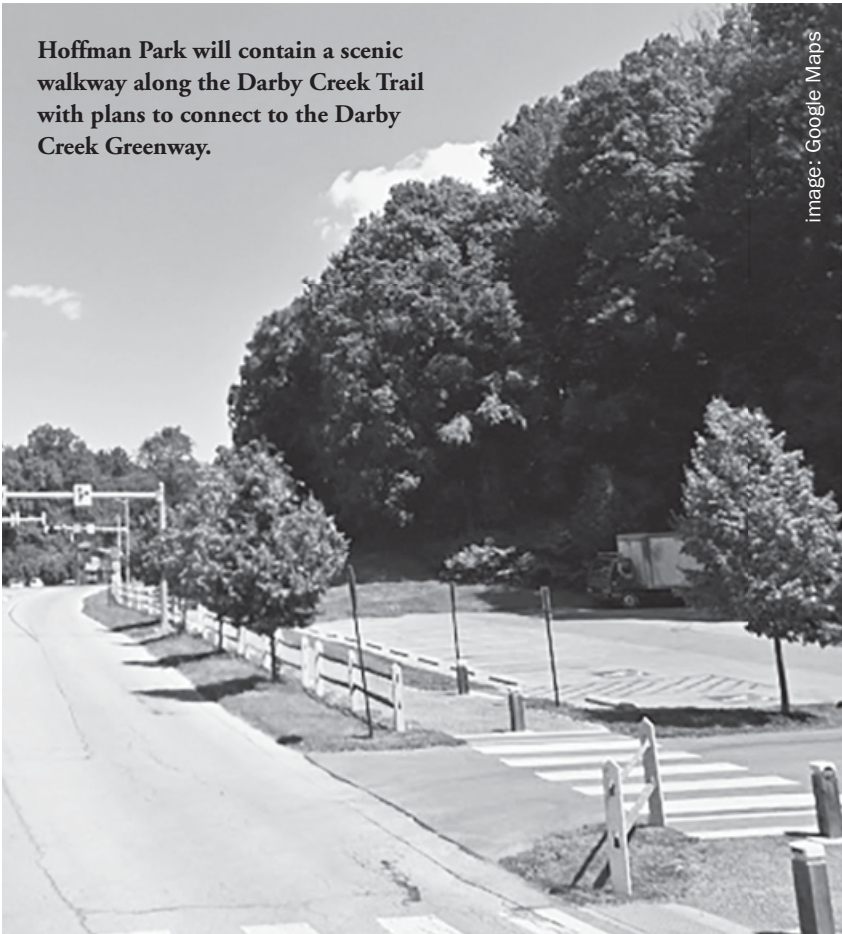
Poised on the outskirts of Philadelphia, with its original plan of neighborhood parks created by William Penn to be the “Green Country Towne,” Lansdowne – despite its one square mile – possesses a plethora of parks rivalling any municipality throughout the county. From Hoffman Park, with its tennis courts and Darby Creek scenery, to Sycamore Park, with the wizened elder tree observing the generations of Lansdowne residents, the Lansdowne Parks system contains parks that cater to all residents in Lansdowne. To maximize the benefits of the parks, the Lansdowne Democrats are committed to maintain the parks as a place of recreation for all of the residents of Lansdowne.

How do we plan to maintain our parks?

This past year, Borough Council through the recommendations of the Lansdowne Parks and Recreation Board committed to the

refurbishing of the basketball courts and tennis courts at Hoffman Park. Although the setbacks caused by flooding and unforeseen complications in the work set us behind schedule, we will be re-opening the courts this fall. Hoffman Park will contain a scenic walkway along the Darby Creek Trail – with plans to connect to the Darby Creek Greenway; as well as a playground for kids, a pavilion for parties, a field for soccer and baseball, and a newly redone basketball courts and tennis courts. Also, this past spring and fall, the Parks and Recreation Board has initiated a series of park improvements in Interboro Park through poison ivy remediation, tree removal, tree pruning, and tree planting. In addition, we have reached out to the local neighbors including the historic congregation of Bethel AME to identify areas of concern, as well as ideas for improvement to create a vibrant community center that allows all the

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FAIR DISTRICTS PA – THE 2017-18 EFFORT

The Gerrymandering Battle Is Not Over

By Caryl Carpenter

About two years ago, a dedicated group of volunteers founded the non-partisan organization called Fair Districts PA. The groups represented in this coalition were: Common Cause PA, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, the Committee of Seventy, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and others concerned about accountable government. Fair Districts PA’s goal is to end gerrymandering in Pennsylvania by changing the way congressional and state legislative districts are drawn.

The 2021 redistricting will be carried out using the same process as in 2011. Whether controlled by Republicans or Democrats, the incentive to gerrymander districts to favor the party in power will still be in place.

The Fair Districts strategy has been to amend the PA Constitution, taking redistricting out of the hands of the state legislature and give it to an independent commission. This should take place in time for the redistricting that will take place after the 2020 Census. The first step was to propose to the legislature in Harrisburg to pass enabling legislation by June 30, 2018. Elected officials in 268 municipalities and 19 counties have adopted resolutions that ask their state legislators to support the enabling legislation. These elected officials, with both Republican and Democratic majorities, represent 6.9 million Pennsylvanians, about 54 percent of the state’s population.

Despite bi-partisan support in the House and Senate, the PA legislature failed to pass the legislation. The bills were stalled in Republican-controlled committees that refused to let the bills come up for a vote. Later the Republicans attached poison-pill amendments that assured the bills would never pass.

The Fair Districts guiding principles are that districts must:

- Adhere to all Constitution and Voting Rights Act requirements.
- Make all districts as equal in population as possible with an established minimal range of deviation.
- Respect city and county subdivisions, natural geographic features, and communities of interest.
- Encourage geographical compactness.
- Not be drawn for the purpose of either favoring or discriminating against a political party or candidate.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Meanwhile, the PA Supreme Court found that the districts in the Congressional map for Pennsylvania that were drawn in 2011 by the Republican-controlled legislature were not

compact; did not minimize the splitting of city and county lines, and were distorted (gerrymandered) in ways that gave Republicans a disproportionate and unfair share of Congressional seats. The Court ordered the legislature to re-draw the Congressional district map by a specific deadline. When the legislature failed to comply with the Court order, the Court arranged to have experts re-draw the map. The new map was used in the primary last Spring and will be used for the elections this Fall on November 6th.

The New Pennsylvania 5th Congressional District

Prior to the new court-ordered map, Delaware County was divided between two Congressional districts. The First District included eastern Delaware County and parts of Philadelphia. Lansdowne was in this district, represented by Congressman Bob Brady, a Democrat. The western half of Delaware County was in the Seventh District, along with parts of Chester County, and was represented by Congressman Patrick Meehan, a Republican. Both Brady and Meehan decided not to run in 2018.

Our new district, the PA Fifth, includes all of Delaware County, parts of South Philadelphia, and the Lower Merion part of Montgomery County. Mary Gay Scanlon is the Democratic candidate for the Fifth District; Pearl Kim is the Republican candidate for the Fifth.

The Battle is Not Over

At the end of the legislative session in June, many of us thought we had lost our one opportunity to finally end gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. Even though the PA Supreme Court ordered the map re-drawn for this election cycle, no permanent change in PA’s method of redistricting was created. This means that in 2021, the redistricting that will be required after the 2020 Census will be carried out using the same process as in 2011. Whether controlled by Republicans or Democrats, the incentive to gerrymander districts to favor the party in power will still be in place.

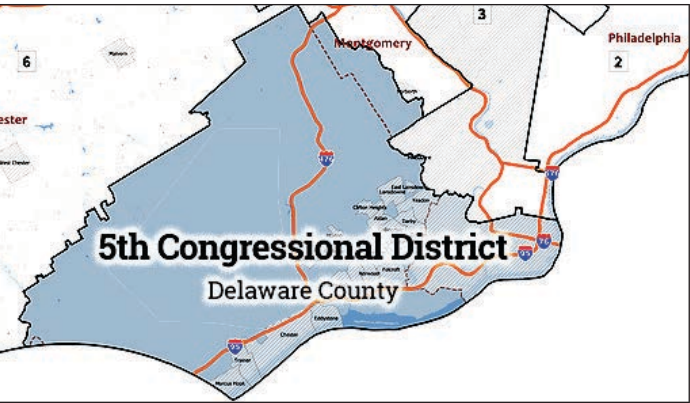
Fair Districts PA is considering a number of alternative strategies:

- Promote an independent commission for Congressional districts only, not state legislative districts. This does not require a PA Constitutional amendment.
- Propose legislation to ensure transparency and public input for whatever map-drawing processes are used and to set enforceable standards for map-drawing.
- Continue the effort to amend the PA constitution to create an independent commission for state legislative and congressional districts in place for 2031, or possibly 2021 if unexplored ways to accomplish the goal sooner are identified.

Bottom Line

We have no assurance that the lines drawn for the PA Fifth District will still be in place after 2021. Groups like Fair Districts PA will continue their work to end gerrymandering in PA.

In the meantime, be sure you know what position your state representative and your state senator have about working to end gerrymandering.



The newly-drawn 5th Congressional District includes the entirety of Delaware County as well as parts of Southwest Philadelphia and a small area in Southwest Montgomery County.

WHAT WE’RE LISTENING TO

Testing the Political Podcast Waters

By K. Merten

In the twenty-four hour news cycle, sometimes it feels like we’re on a runaway carnival ride that we cannot escape. There are days when “news fatigue” sets in, and I’m ready to turn off the TV for a long while. When this happens, I turn to podcasts as a way to get my news. Some of our readers may be devoted podcast listeners, but some of us may be wondering just what a podcast actually is. A podcast is an updated version of the old-school radio show, ready to be downloaded onto your smartphone. They can make a long drive seem bearable or brighten up a long day of chores. Podcasts are an easy way to learn about a range of different topics, but some of my favorite podcasts offer takes on current political issues.

If you’re interested in testing the political podcast waters, there are a bunch of great podcasts out there, some of which are produced by Democratic individuals and organizations, and some of which are produced national news organizations. Always remember to do your research about the media you consume--know where your news is coming from. A quick Google search can tell you more information about who produces and sponsors specific podcasts. To get you started, here are a few of my favorites:

For a fresh take on Delaware County politics, check out the **Delco Young Democast**, hosted by Mike DiEva, Amanda Hammock, Pasquale Cipolloni, and Gina Amoroso . Their podcast covers local issues, including election results, education funding, and local organizing. Also, it’s refreshingly honest about what life is like as a democrat in a largely republican county: the frustrations, the triumphs, and yes, even the humorous moments. Some of their earlier episodes feature “fireside chats” with local and state candidates, including John Fetterman (D), candidate for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, and Mary Gay Scanlon (D), nominee for Congress in the new fifth district; these chats provide a good window into the candidate’s policies and personality. What sticks with me about the podcast is that there’s a civics component to it as well: if you want to learn about gerrymandering, how to get on the ballot, or even about the voting process, it’s all there. There’s even an episode about Lansdowne’s democratic history.

Mike DiEva and the hosts of the Delco Young Democast saw a vacuum when it came to a local podcast focused on issues that young people care about, and they deliver in spades. As they move forward, the Democast is interested in bringing issues “specific to Delco” onto the airwaves--and inviting guests that represent the diversity of the party and Delaware County as a whole. The structure of this podcast is more of a conversation, but the hosts never talk down to the listener, and it feels more like “grabbing a beer or a cup of coffee with a friend,” according to Mike.

On the national stage, check out **Pod Save America** a podcast hosted by four former aides to president Obama: Jon Favreau, Dan Pfeiffer, Jon Lovett, and Tommy Vietor. Their show covers. Guests have included Barack Obama (in his last interview as president!), Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris, and Elizabeth Warren. What hooked me about this podcast is the hosts’ ability to make me laugh while simultaneously teaching me something, and never downplaying the seriousness and potential far-reaching consequences of the decisions that are being made in the Trump White House.

If you’re looking for a news-based podcast without the spin, check out National Public Radio’s **Political Podcast**. This podcast features fifteen minute episodes, designed to cover the major political happenings each day. It’s a great way to catch up on the ever-changing political landscape, and ensuring that you don’t get whiplash bouncing back and forth between topics. This podcast does its research and has less spin than the two podcasts covered above. It’s a good podcast to introduce to friends, family, and neighbors who want to learn more about current events from a more journalistic perspective.

Remember, it’s important to critically examine the media you consume: always know where your news is coming from. These podcasts are great starts, but it’s important to examine your own biases and consider how the media we consume affects our worldview. So, check out these latest podcasts, learn about the issues, and vote to empower people this November in the voting booth.

It’s important to critically examine the media you consume: always know where your news is coming from

THE CAVALRY ISN'T COMING

Doing Nothing is No Longer an Option

By Terry Baraldi

Raise your hand if you’ve heard this one before:

It won’t make any difference...Nothing I do will change anything...Protests are pointless. Letters, phone calls...all just busy work best left to the fools who believe they count.

So... your answer then is to do nothing? How do you think we got to this in the first place?

Let me ask you this: When was the last time you made any change or improvement to your health, your house, your job or situation, by just sitting still? By just wishing things were different? Or by just assuming that someone else would see to it, and that you’d be okay with whichever way the chips fell? How’d that work out for you? How ’bout now?

Don’t get me wrong, there are days when I want to, and sometimes do, put my head under the pillow. And guess what? When I resurface, it’s either to the same problem, or to find that someone else handled it, and I have to make do with the outcome...because I’ve lost my complaint privileges.

That may be a way to handle making dinner, or painting the living room; but not in how we choose to live our lives, raise our kids, or take part in any society. We either stand up and be counted

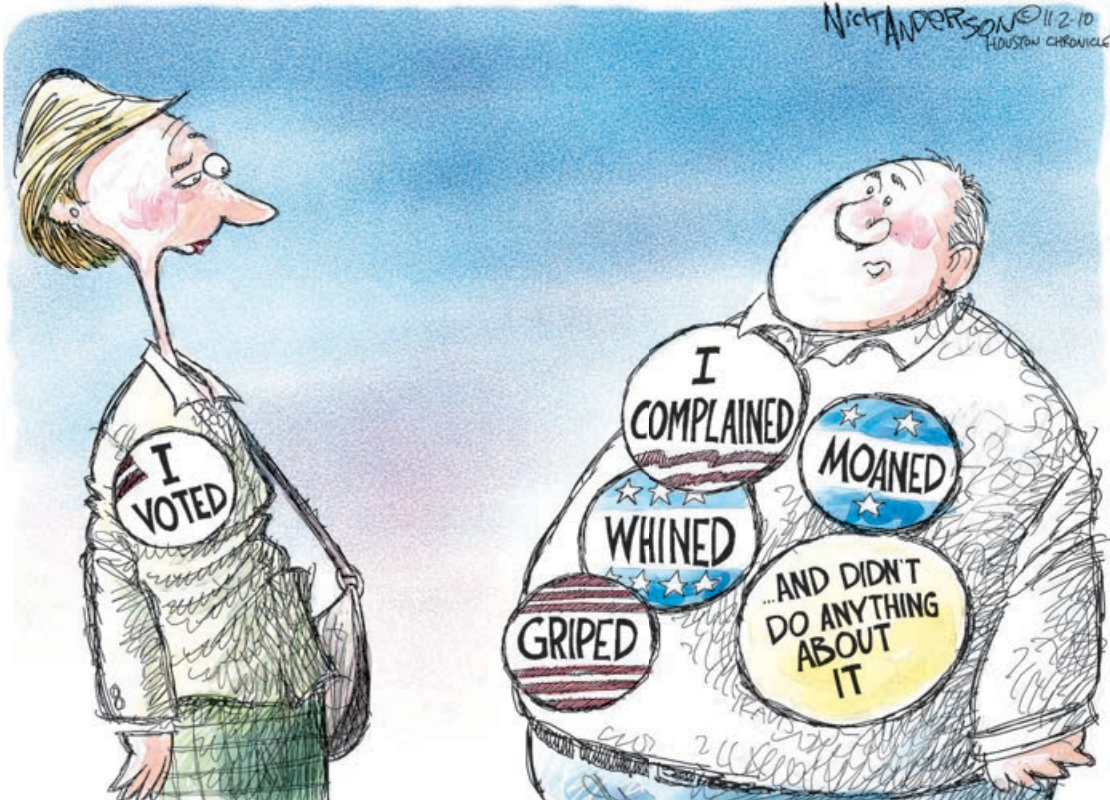
or lay down and be ignored.

Life after World War II was pretty good – if you were white. And *most* people had jobs and could afford a house, although not necessarily in the neighborhood they wanted. Women hadn’t yet been told they had a voice. But overall, Middle America was adequately housed, fed and paid just enough to let life roll on...the 20th Century take on Bread and Circus. Fat and complacent. Hell, we lived with Watergate and Vietnam and still didn’t see the need to do much beyond reading the books or watching the movies. Pass the popcorn and keep your head down.

We laughed at any suggestion that we were headed down a rabbit hole. This was AMERICA.

Who knew that no matter how much we were getting, we were giving up so much more. Who the hell knew? *They did.* The ones who waited ‘til we were sufficiently in thrall to a lifestyle that was only on loan. Then they called it in.

So here we are, all with stunned looks as each new insult, each new incursion into our status quo leaves us feeling angry, depressed, and hopeless. But, worst of all, complicit. Because we did nothing. And some days we wish we didn’t care. Some



days we want to believe “It’ll be alright again...someday.” And some of us are still looking for someone in charge to “fix this.” It’s a pretty sure bet it *won’t* be a Congress that’s abdicated every oath of office and its last shred of integrity. Maybe it’ll be the 18-year-old shooting victims,

or the women of “me too.”

Well, guess what? The cavalry isn’t coming. We have met the army...and it is us! Doing nothing is no longer an option.

But, you say, “I don’t do nothing. I vote.” Sort of like saying “I helped with dinner...I ate.”

WOMENS WAVE continued from page 1

bill, HB 1965, would ban non-disclosure agreements and the use of taxpayer funds to settle harassment lawsuits.

If you’re active in committees and activist spaces in Delaware County, you know that women are well represented in leading and attending grassroots organizing meetings. Organizations like Reclaim, Delco Coalition for Prison Reform, SURJ SEPA, Grassroots Delco, Women’s Democratic Club of Delaware County, Haverford Community Action

Network (H-CAN) and Delco NOW are all dynamic organizations with women in leadership positions. These organizations are pushing forward a large slate in of progressive issues in Delco and challenging the remaining GOP structure.

Those of us who are active at the polls have the opportunity to talk with voters and have heard men and women alike continually express the desire to vote for women and achieve gender parity in representation in PA. It all starts with individual voters determined to show up and pull the lever!

LANSDOWNE

5K

HARVEST RUN

Saturday, November 3

Rain or Shine

30 N. Lansdowne Ave

Race starts at 8:30 am

On-site registration from 7 am–8 am

Free parking, restrooms, water stops, & sprinklers

Lansdowne5k.com

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018		
LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE		Official Sample Ballot
2018 General Election		
OFFICE	ENDORSED CANDIDATE	LEVER
United States Senator (Vote for 1)	CASEY JR, Bob	A1
Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote for both Candidates)	WOLF, Tom FETTERMAN, John	A2
Representative in US Congress 5th District (Vote for 1)	SCANLON, Mary Gay	A3
Senator in the PA General Assembly 8th District (Vote for 1)	WILLIAMS, Anthony Hardy	A5
Representative in the PA General Assembly 164th District (Vote for 1)	DAVIDSON, Margo L	A6

News from the William Penn School District

By Jennifer Hoff

Just two months into the 2018-2019 school year, there are plenty of noteworthy happenings in and around the William Penn School District, including:

Fair Funding Lawsuit: An Update

Developments continue with the William Penn School District v. Pennsylvania Department of Education lawsuit over public school funding. Commenced in 2014, the suit has now cleared the State Supreme Court challenge and on May 7, 2018, the Commonwealth Court overruled objections filed by state legislative leaders. It is expected that a court date will be announced soon, likely for sometime next summer. Although this lawsuit is progressing slower than hoped, The Education Law Center, representing the district pro bono for this case, believes the case can lead to more adequate and equitable state funding of our schools. For more information on the case, please see <https://www.elc-pa.org/fighting-for-fair-school-funding/>

You can help our cause by calling your state representatives to ask them about the state of school funding. Our legislators have the power to end this mess right now by fully funding the Education Formula they developed in 2016. As of now, only 8% of the Education budget goes through the formula, rendering it completely ineffective. The State Representatives that cover our district are listed below:

- **Aldan Borough** – Representative James R. Santora: 610-259-2820
- **Colwyn Borough** – Representative Maria P. Donatucci / 215-492-5811
- **Darby and Yeadon Boroughs** – Representative Joanna E. McClinton / 215-748-6712
- **Lansdowne and East Lansdowne Boroughs** – Representative Margo L. Davidson / 610-259-7016

Penn Wood High School Youth Court

A Youth Court program has been implemented in our district for students with minor offenses such as inappropriate behavior, inappropriate language, class lateness, and class cutting. The Youth Court is a part of the Current Issues taught by Mr. Patrick Travers. PWHS Youth Court comprises one student judge, one youth advocate, and the student being written up for the offense. Additionally there are five student jurors and one student jury foreman to facilitate the communication among jurors. All students will take turns with different roles during the Youth court school year.

The goals of the William Penn School District Youth Court are to:

- Support students in learning how to modify behaviors and make better choices
- Provide constructive alternative to suspension, detention, and other exclusionary disciplinary practices
- Create civic engagement opportunity for students
- Strengthen school culture and community through positive peer pressure and student leadership.



Left to right: Superintendent Jane Harbert, Katelyn Marie Tong, and Katelyn’s parents Kimberly and Jan Tong celebrate Katelyn’s appointment as the 9th Grade Student School Board Representative.

Voter Registration Event Held at Penn Wood H.S.

The Penn Wood High School Ninth Grade Student Council and National Honor Society members recently hosted a Voter Registration Assembly at the Green Avenue Campus. Under the direction of Student Council Advisors, high school staff, School Board President Jennifer Hoff and local Lansdowne Votes Representative Carol Carpenter. They talked about the importance of voting – a way to express what is important to you and have a say in who represents you in government, where important decisions are made that impact every aspect of our lives. Students distributed voter registration applications and, when necessary, assisted students in completing the online registration.

Ardmore Avenue Elementary School

Ardmore Avenue Elementary School got off to a tremendous start with a Grandparents Day celebration featuring more than 130 grandparents! The school also took part in a Get Out the Vote project led by parent Betsy Burke, Lansdowne Mayor Tony Campuzano, and School Nurse Elizabeth Dunford. Want to help at Ardmore? Save your BoxTops for Education and Coke bottle caps for the School. When you have a good amount

saved, just drop them off at the Ardmore Avenue School. Lastly, Ardmore Avenue is always looking for volunteers to help our students. If you are interested in volunteering at Ardmore Avenue Elementary, please contact Principal Joseph Denelsbeck at jdenelsbeck@wpsd.k12.pa.us.

New Student School Board Representative

Lansdowne resident **Katelyn Marie Tong** was appointed as the WPSD 9th Grade Student School Board representative. She joins the 10th grade representative Nasharie Stewart and 11th grade representative Lowoe Samolu on the board. Kate is a member of the Marching and Concert Band, Softball and Soccer teams. Katelyn will serve for three years as a voice for her and her fellow students at the board level. Congratulations to Katelyn and parents Kimberly and Jan Tong!

Curriculum Renewal Team Convenes

A team of parents, faculty, and administrators gathered to provide input for the William Penn School District's Curriculum Renewal. The effort focuses on Reading and Language Arts. Special thanks to all involved in the process, which includes creating a vision for our literacy program and reviewing available curriculum.

INVESTING IN PARKS

continued from page 3

neighbors to use the shared space. Similarly, in 2018, Lansdowne received grants to engineer and engage in renovations to Reservoir Park and to develop the Gateway Slope walkway along the intersection of Scottdale Road and Baltimore Pike.

In the upcoming year, we have discussed the need to provide more opportunities for our youth to engage in recreational activities in the parks and also a place to expand the walking trails for adults to continue in healthy lifestyles. By investing in our parks, we allow the citizens of Lansdowne the opportunities to meet neighbors, to engage in community building, and to generate a sense of shared space that is often missing in our social lives. Parks allow an outlet for children to play, for adults to reflect, and for neighbors to share.

A Shared Habitat

Along with a development of athletic programs for adults and children in Lansdowne, a continued investment in our parks preserves the ethos of Lansdowne in supporting the goals of environmental protection. By

maintaining open spaces and natural spaces within our Borough, we also provide the location for local, native species to exist alongside us. Our community maintains the long-standing reputation as an **Arbor City, USA** community, and currently we are in the process of becoming a member of the Audubon Society’s **Bird Town, USA** to recognize the

CHAIR’S COLUMN

continued from page 2

upcoming mid-term elections on Tuesday, November 6. It has long been my personal goal that we increase average voter turn out from a high of 40 % to at least 75%. How do I know we can do this? Well, if you look at all the volunteerism, involvement and dedication that makes this Borough the great place it is over the course of years, then asking people to show up on one day, to do their most sacred civic duty certainly must be possible. So, I urge you – in fact challenge you – to make a plan for Tuesday, November 6th between 7 am and 8pm. Either before work, during your lunch break, or after work

Bird Sanctuary that is maintained in Lansdowne’s natural areas. Through the dedication of our elected officials and appointed Board members, we commit to maintaining Lansdowne as a center of Green activity – care for the Earth’s health, our neighbors’ health, and for the health of our community.

to come out to vote. If you did not register by the October 9th deadline, you can always register and be prepared for the next election. But to make up for your absence in this one, I challenge you to make sure that at least 5 of your neighbors go out to vote. If you don’t know where to vote, there is a map and polling place locations in this edition of The Leader. People often say, if you don’t vote, you can’t complain. That may be true, but I have another thought on the matter. If you want to complain, the most powerful way to do that is with your vote on election day. Lansdowne is counting on you. I’ll look for you on November 6th. And be sure to say hello to the volunteers from the Lansdowne Democratic Committee who will be outside your polling place to greet you!

LANSDOWNE LANDING

It's the Place to See and Be Seen

By Tyler Mertens

The weather was perfect for sitting out in The Landing on June 28. A decent sized crowd had gathered in anticipation of the 7:00 pm show. At 7:15 (after checking and double checking the PA system), the first band took the stage. Michael Canton, as his solo act The Goodbye Party, played a set of self-described “heavenly blues.” The Diaphone, an indie rock trio, followed. The third and final act of the night was The Beatles. Around 8:00, just as the sun was setting, The Beatles’ 1964 film *A Hard Day’s Night* was projected onto a screen behind where the bands had played. The delighted crowd of Lansdownians and their dogs watched the movie under the stars. This night, dubbed Open Sound, was scheduled to reoccur every other Thursday night through August.

Since its grand opening in May 2017, the Landing has been a successful experiment in bringing the laid back, community public space vibes to Lansdowne

Open Sound was a hit this summer. Organized by Ramsey Beyer, Michael Cantor (The Goodbye Party), Melissa and Dave Rogel (The Diaphone), each Open Sound event featured two or three bands playing for an hour followed by an outdoor screening of a music-related movie. The bands hail from Lansdowne and Philly and span wide variety of musical genres, from punk to pop, connected by their homegrown, indie spirits. Many were sad to see the final Open Sound on August 23 (fret not – the organizers are planning to host more shows next summer, and possibly some events this fall), but fortunately it was just one of the many things to do at The Landing.

Since its grand opening in May 2017, the Landing has been a successful experiment in bringing the laid back, community public space vibes of Philadelphia's Spruce Street Harbor Park and Clark Park to Lansdowne.



Start Your Holiday Shopping in Style!

Friday, November 23
4 pm-8 pm

Saturday, November 24
10 am-4 pm

Twentieth Century Club

ABitoftheArts.com



The enduring staple of The Landing is the Lansdowne Farmers Market. Open every Saturday morning from May through October, farmers and merchants from near and far converge on Lansdowne, selling everything from fresh produce to baked goods to artisanal cheeses.

Looking to work off the calories from everything you bought at the Farmers Market? Downtown Nutrition hosts a cardio drumming class most Tuesday nights in The Landing. And keep an eye on the calendar of events at www.lansdownelanding.com to find out when the next session of Yoga Under the Stars will be.

The list of events that The Landing has hosted and will host goes on: Library on the Go hosted by the Lansdowne Public Library, the 125th Anniversary Night Market, Diner en Tie Dye, the Tree Lighting Ceremony,

Quizzo Night.

The best thing about The Landing is its open-source nature; if you can't find an event you like there, host it yourself! You can request a permit to host an event at The Landing for up to 75 people for the reasonable price of \$0.00. The Landing was created by local volunteers who donated money, painted the colorful mural, and built all of the furniture and planters. Now The Landing relies on local volunteers to dream up ways to utilize the space.

So how will you enjoy The Landing this fall? You could organize a food truck festival there. You could host a pet parade there. Or you could even just enjoy a low-key picnic with some close friends and a bottle of wine there. Did I mention The Landing is a sanctioned BYOB space? It doesn't get much better than that.



3:00-5:00 PM

2312 Garrett Road - Drexel Hill, PA 19026

\$25 PER PERSON | **\$20** **US MILITARY VETERANS**

Tickets & Info: **UnionAA.org** / **610-733-4863**

MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND

Pringle Appointed to Borough Council

Desmondé Pringle, a resident of the Borough for nearly two decades, was sworn in to Borough Council on October 17, 2018. Pringle’s appointment filled the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Susan Williams. Desmondé is a proud military veteran, having served in the US Army Reserves, and has further served our country as

an intelligence analyst. He has vast experience in human relations and organizational dynamics, which he will bring to serve our Borough.

He is an undergraduate alumnus of Penn State University and earned his Master of Science in Organization Development and Leadership from St. Joseph’s University. He also speaks

three languages.

Mr. Pringle looks forward to bringing his experience and background to being Chair of the Public Safety Committee where he will have oversight of the Police (along with the Mayor), the Volunteer Fire Company, Board of Health, and the Human Relations Commission.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Make Your Voice Heard with the Lansdowne Democratic Committee

The Lansdowne Democratic Committee is comprised of elected representatives (committee people) from each of the 11 voting precincts in the Borough. Two elected and additional committee people serve as liaisons between their neighbors and the folks who serve in local government.

In addition to the committee people and officers (chair, vice-chairs, treasurer and secretary), local elected officials attend monthly meetings to discuss local issues, current events and borough council and school district priorities and activities. Committee people bring information from their neighbors to the committee and in turn, bring information back from elected officials to their neighbors.

Opportunities for Local Involvement

In addition to serving as a committee person, there are many opportunities for involvement and service in local politics which include:

- Serving as a poll watcher on election day. Spend an hour or an entire day at your local polling place to speak with voters about what concerns them, to inform them of who is running for which office and to give information about any ballot questions. Primary elections are held in May, general elections in November.
- Serve on your local election board. This elected (or sometimes appointed) non-partisan position allows you to be part of the process of protecting the right to vote on election day. Serve inside the polling place to check-in voters and insure that access to voting is done in a professional, non-partisan manner.
- Help deliver the *Lansdowne Leader*, published two

to three times a year.

- Attend Committee Meetings – 2nd Monday of the month, 7pm at Borough Hall – to learn more about local issues and to air concerns, share ideas.
- Serve on a local board or commission. These volunteer service positions on a variety of boards or commissions include the library, parks and recreation and zoning boards and the civil service and planning commissions. Citizen-service means citizen input.
- Make a financial contribution to the Democratic Committee to support the Lansdowne Leader, local campaigns and other activities.
- Run for public office. Bring your interest to the Committee and learn about opportunities to serve as an elected member of local council, school board, tax collector and constable.
- Become involved in county, state and national issues, activism and elections. While “all politics is local” our interest should not stop there.
- Join our mailing list and receive updates and alerts to what is happening in local politics.

To learn more, please join us at the monthly meeting of the Lansdowne Democratic Committee. The meetings are on the second Monday of every month at 7pm at Borough Hall.

Due to Election Day, the November meeting will take place on the first Monday, November 5th. The December meeting reverts to the regular second Monday, December 10th.

Visit LansdowneDemocrats.org to sign up for the mailing list and more information about the Lansdowne Democratic Committee.

RETURN TO LANSDOWNE
continued from page 3

awarding county services. County Council Republicans claim that asking for normal procedures of fiscal accountability is a “political attack” on them, which says a lot about how they view politics and the responsibilities of the office they hold.

Delaware County has been run this way since the end of the Civil War. On the eve of these midterms, we anticipate that our Democratic voter registration advantage in Delco will flip some seats. But how did this happen 20 years ago in just one small town, amid a sea of corruption? And how did they maintain freedom from the GOP machine for 20 years?

The creation of the *Leader* played a large part in that. Since there was no platform to talk about a liberal view of town issues, they created one. And in the act of creating and distributing the *Leader*, community ties are formed and strengthened. People who may not have known others had similar views now had a venue to come together and meet one another. Having a venue to bring transparency to government processes rendered the GOP’s fiat rule unsustainable. And once Democrats began winning office, the community became more inclusive. On a practical level, this allowed Lansdowne to gain new residents from waves of migration out of the city caused by gentrification. While other towns were losing residents, Lansdowne’s real estate market remained active. As

government became more open and transparent, citizens became more engaged.

When I helped distribute the *Leader* and worked the polls in 2017 and earlier this year, I saw that people still read the *Leader*, which goes out to every household in Lansdowne. While social media is an important way for people to get local news, many people are not on social media. Having a publication is an important part of our success in having voter turnout levels that are higher than the surrounding area. Distribution of the paper gets our committee people out in our neighborhoods, the publication reaches people, and piques interest not just in candidates but in our citizen and government collaborations such as Lansdowne Landing. It also raises awareness of local issues that wouldn’t get coverage in the newspaper.

As Delaware County goes blue, we on the *Leader* editorial committee hope to be of assistance to surrounding areas who are looking for a venue to get a similar type of success story started. I believe our colleagues in surrounding Democratic committees see the importance of engaging with voters and putting accurate local information in front of voters’ right before election time. Voters will engage with the party that wants to provide as much information as possible, not the party that feels transparency is a political attack on them. Please feel free to send ideas about local issues you’d like to see covered to charlottehummel@msn.com or send us a message through our website or Facebook page.

LANSDOWNE
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

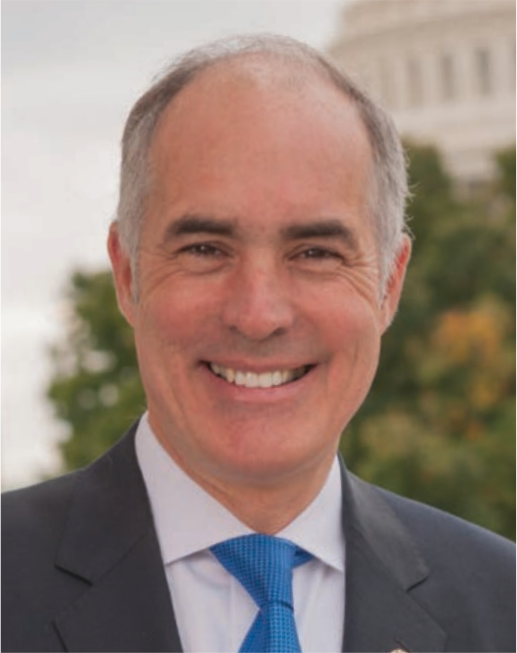




Charlotte K. Hummel, Chair	610-626-7086
Suzanne K. McElroy, First Vice Chair	610-213-1172
Clare Hughes, Vice Chair for Engagement	610-613-3997
Catherine Coll, Vice Chair for Communications	202-669-7933
Kate Schleigh, Secretary	610-284-0411
Bill Smith, Treasurer	610-213-2022

■ COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1st Precinct	
William Horton.....	267-240-6747
One vacancy	
2nd Precinct	
Michael Schleigh	215-740-7047
Kate Schleigh	610-406-3660
3rd Precinct	
Elliot Borgman	610-715-6803
William Hodgson	610-259-0884
4th Precinct	
Craig Horle	215-823-9607
Susan Corbin	610-284-0411
5th Precinct	
Michael McElroy	610-284-5503
Desmondé Pringle	610-202-2743
6th Precinct	
Bill Smith	610-213-2022
Allison Truman.....	610-453-2547
7th Precinct	
Mark Anthony French	610-517-5251
Bernadette Domenick.....	610-585-2353
8th Precinct	
Two vacancies	
9th Precinct	
Antoine R. Mauldin	267-205-4809
10th Precinct	
Peggie McCormack.....	610-772-3947
One vacancy	
11th Precinct	
Kellie Bowker	484-410-9209
Kristin Bellafante	703-597-5857
At-Large	
Kate Bechtold.....	610-308-3645
Magda Byrne	484-362-3351
Tony Campuzano	610-259-0543
Caryl Carpenter	610-623-6449
Catherine Coll	202-669-7933
Andy Farquhar	610-626-7086
Wardell Holt II	215-704-3869
Benjamin Hover	610-357-3731
Clare Hughes	610-613-3997
Charlotte K. Hummel	610-626-7086
Suzanne McElroy	610-213-1172
Charles L Royal	610-284-9338
Joe Stevenson	610-623-3487
Maria Valdenegro	610-284-1049
Laurie Wolfe	215-823-9407

LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Endorsed Candidates

 <div>US Senate Bob CASEY, Jr. LEVER A1</div>	 <div>US Congress Mary Gay SCANLON LEVER A3</div>	 <div>Governor Tom WOLF LEVER A2</div>
 <div>Lt. Governor John FETTERMAN LEVER A2</div>	 <div>State Senator Anthony H. WILLIAMS LEVER A5</div>	 <div>State Representative Margo DAVIDSON LEVER A6</div>

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

SUPREME COURT RULING

JANUS vs. AFSCME:
An Attack on Workers

By Ben Hover

In a recent case titled Janus vs. AFSCME, the Supreme Court ruled on June 27, 2018 to overturn approximately 40 years of precedent to remove the Fair Share Dues requirement for non-Union members in collective bargaining units. Pundits from across the political spectrum agree that this ruling will hamper the ability of Unions to conduct their business in the workplace. The ruling by the Supreme Court demonstrates in stark terms the consequences of the decisions made by the voting public at the ballot box. Similarly, the case represents the fruition of a concerted effort of billionaire ideologues to strip the rights of working Americans to unite in negotiating for better pay, working conditions, and benefits.

What are Fair Share Dues?

The issue located at the center of the case was whether or not an employee should be compelled to pay Fair Share Dues for representation by a bargaining unit. From the previous precedents of the court, States—such as Pennsylvania and Illinois—could pass labor laws allowing Collective Bargaining Units (or Unions) to collect fees from nonmembers.

The long-standing precedent—stare decisis in legal terms—ruled that nonmembers benefited from the receipt of higher wages, benefits, and better working conditions negotiated by the Bargaining Unit. In addition, the National Labor Relations Board mandates that all employees, “have a right to be represented by [a] union fairly, in good faith, and without discrimination. [A] union has the duty to represent all employees - whether members of the union or not-fairly, in good faith, and without discrimination. This duty applies to virtually every action that a union may take in dealing with an employer as your representative, including collective bargaining, handling grievances, and operating exclusive hiring halls.” In other words, Unions are required by law to extend all of their operations to cover members and nonmembers alike.

Because of this legal requirement to represent all employees, past courts consistently ruled for over four decades that Unions could assess a fee to cover the costs incurred by this representation. These fees are used to cover employees—member and nonmember alike, without prejudice—in the operations of offering health care, retirement, due process in the workplace, and ensuring safe working conditions.

Who wants to change this precedent?

While the captains of business and industry have assaulted Labor Unions since their inception, the last three decades have witnessed a renewed concerted effort by right wing ideologues to restrict the rights of workers to unionize. The Union movement helped to create Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and even was the force behind the 40-hour work week and the weekend.

In the past ten years, think tanks and advocacy groups funded by billionaires—the Koch Brothers, the Bradley Foundation, the Betsy DeVos family, the Walton family, even the Gates foundation, and more--have advocated to undermine union support and for so-called Right to Work laws in states throughout the United States. Perhaps the most visible example

occurred in Wisconsin when over 100, 000 citizens--teachers, firefighters, postal workers, governmental employees, and others—joined together to oppose Walker’s plans to decimate public sector Unions. In the years after Wisconsin’s attack on the Unions. Fifteen more states have passed right to work bills aimed at ending public sector Unions despite popular opposition to the bills.

How does this affect Pennsylvania?

The Republican Party in Pennsylvania has attempted to enact similar radical actions in Pennsylvania. For the past four years, Republican legislators in the House and Senate have passed or introduced one bill after another attacking Unions in Pennsylvania—allowing employers to refuse to deduct dues from paychecks (2014), right to work legislation (2017), prohibiting payroll deductions for voluntary contributions to Union PACs (2017), cuts to worker’s compensation (2018).

Leading the opposition to Unions in Pennsylvania is none other than the Republican candidate for Governor, former State Senator Scott Wagner. In 2014, Scott Wagner infamously compared labor unions to Adolf Hitler and Vladimir Putin. To solidify his hatred of Unions, Scott Wagner regularly uses his campaign to attack teachers and the two teacher unions in PA—the AFT and NEA. According to the NEA, EducationVotes website, “Wagner has also said he wants to eliminate benefits that educators earn, including sick days. He plans to end pensions for working educators, and wants retired educators to give back 10% of the retirement they earned.”

On the other hand, Governor Tom Wolf repeatedly sided with workers and unions and used the power of his veto pen to stave off attacks on the protections fought for by the many unions in Pennsylvania.

How does Janus vs. AFSCME affect Lansdowne?

In recognition of the many Lansdowne residents and employees who are members of unions throughout the area, the Lansdowne Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of AFSCME this past April to voice our support of the right of Lansdowne workers to unionize. A portion of that resolution recognized the reality that unions are still the organizations working to achieve pay equity and dignity for women and people of color in the United States:

Being able to participate in unions gives all of us – particularly women and people of color – a powerful voice in speaking up for ourselves, our families, and our communities, and ensures that each worker in the Borough of Lansdowne is treated with dignity, respect, and appreciation.

To put this in perspective, the consistent rhetorical attacks on unions by Scott Wagner and other Republican legislators are not abstract. The attacks are really attacks on our neighbors, our friends, our families, our teachers, our sanitation workers, our police officers, our firefighters—many of whom are members of the PSEA, PFT, FOP, SEIU, TWU, IATSE, IAFF, AFSCME, CWA, and many more. When political candidates or representatives promise to cut wages, reduce benefits, or privatize resources, they are promising an injury to community members we know and care about.

And, in the words of unions, “an injury to one is an injury to all.”

The Lansdowne Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of AFSCME this past April to voice our support of the right of Lansdowne workers to unionize.

FIRST-TIME VOTERS:
READ THIS FIRST

If you're voting for the first time, be sure you're prepared once you arrive at the polls. All voters who appear at a polling place for the first time must show an approved form of photo identification.

Approved forms of photo identification (ID must be valid):

- Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card
- ID issued by any Commonwealth agency
- ID issued by the U.S. Government
- U.S. passport
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- Student ID
- Employee ID

Approved forms of non-photo identification (ID must include your name and address):

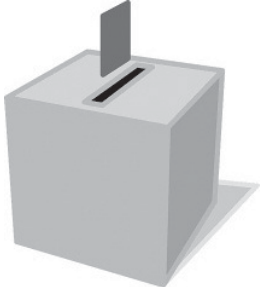
- Confirmation issued by the County Voter Registration Office
- Non-photo ID issued by the Commonwealth
- Non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government
- Firearm permit
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current paycheck
- Government check

All first time absentee ballot voters must send a copy of an acceptable form of identification with your ballot application. Once your identification is on file in the County, you need not send it again.

In Pennsylvania, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. The busiest times of day to vote are in the morning and evening. If you can, try going at less busy times. If you have a question, ask a poll worker. If you are in line before or at the time the polls close, you will be allowed to cast your vote.

For additional information about casting your vote in Pennsylvania, please visit votespa.com

**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS!**



**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 6
IS
ELECTION DAY**

TAKE BACK CONGRESS
continued from page 1

the tax bill passed. Instead, the tax bill gave large tax cuts to corporations and wealthy individuals, and modest cuts to middle income individuals.

What have corporations done with their tax cuts? Many companies have used the tax cut to buy-back stock from shareholders, increasing the wealth of the remaining shareholders. Some have given one-time bonuses to employees. Rarely have workers received a permanent increase in wages or salaries as a result of the corporate tax cuts. The result: income for the majority of Americans continues to grow slowly.

There has been job growth since the tax bill passed, a growth that started in 2010 under Obama and continued under Trump. However, the jobs that are coming back fall into two categories. One group of jobs requires technical skills that most workers who lost their jobs in the recession do not have. The Republicans and Trump have not funded any job training programs that could help these workers get good-paying jobs in the new economy. The second group consists of new jobs that have lower wages and fewer benefits than the jobs people lost in the recession. Most of these jobs are in the retail and service sectors.

Meanwhile, those in the top income brackets received large tax cuts that they did not need. The notion of “trickle-down” economics (the theory that tax cuts given to the wealthy trickle down to everyone else as the wealthy increase investments) was discredited during the Reagan presidency. It does not need resurrection today.

The tax cuts to the wealthy widen the gap between rich and poor, and income inequality increases.

The tax cuts will result in a \$2 trillion increase in the national debt. That means the Federal government must spend more on interest expense and have less available for everything else.

BARALDI
continued from page 1

County we are diverse in age, race, origin, gender, beliefs, but there’s something that unites Grassroots Delco -- we are willing to stand up against this administration and in favor of human rights! We are experienced activists right in your hometown. Show up with us and stand for you and your neighbor’s rights at Lansdowne Avenue and Baltimore Pike on Monday nights at 7! Or start a protest in your town. All you need is a sign and an hour!”

Baraldi envisioned GrassRoots Delco as part of the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) movement by Democrats leading up to the 2018 midterm elections. She hoped that, after beginning in Lansdowne and spreading to Upper Darby, it would expand throughout towns in Delaware County and beyond. “We want to encourage and enable the people still on the sidelines that they can do this. That they *must* do this. Activism doesn’t need permits and porta-johns, or buses or backpacks. It is standing, with peaceful purpose, on your own turf, along with and in sight of your own friends and neighbors, and speaking truth to power. A sign, a stand and sixty minutes. You can do this.” She appealed to the many who are alarmed and angry about the direction Trump and the GOP Congress are taking our country but are unsure how to respond -- people not used to protesting, with little spare time in their lives, but who feel the need to do something, anything, to stop the horror.

“What would you do if: Someone took your child away to *you don’t know where?* And now THEY don’t know either; someone you love were dying because their access to healthcare was taken away? Or someone scrawled hate messages on your front door? Would you wait for someone else to form a group, rent buses and porta-potties and apply for a permit for two months from now? Or would you hope that your friends and neighbors would stand by and support your fight for justice RIGHT NOW? Big NATIONAL events get the news coverage, but the actual NATION starts at *your doorstep and mine*. All day, every day. The NATION passes through YOUR TOWN all day, every day. It needs to see you and to recognize itself in you. Everyday folk. Showing up. THAT is what this is about. Taking it to the street you call home. Once a week, a sign, a stand and sixty minutes. Then you get to go home. Not everyone can.”

What impact did Baraldi expect, first on her GrassRoots Delco page and then from the weekly corner protests? What were her ultimate goals? To begin with, she was determined that the GrassRoots Delco page was not to be used for political discussions or arguments but rather “for encouraging local activism and sharing ideas and experiences.” She feared she would be the only one posting

Access to Affordable Health Insurance

The Republicans in Congress have continued to chip away at the Affordable Care Act, making it harder for people to buy affordable health insurance coverage. At the same time, health care costs continue to rise, especially for prescription drugs. Republicans have done nothing to stem escalating pharmaceutical prices.

Education, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and Everything Else

With passage of the tax bill, Republicans have succeeded in starving the Federal government of the revenues needed to fund vital government services.

- There has been no investment in infrastructure that could bring back good-paying jobs and make our economy more competitive.
- Federal support for education has decreased, leaving states to struggle to finance K-12 public education, primarily through increased property taxes.
- There have been no proposals to finance pre-K education that low and middle income families struggle to pay for so both parents can work.
- Republicans seem to have no interest in helping to make college education more affordable.

There is continuing speculation that if Republicans retain control of Congress there will be efforts to privatize Medicare and Social Security, and turn Medicaid into a block grant program to states, which is likely to reduce Medicaid benefits.

Remember: Medicaid pays for the health care of people with disabilities and long-term residents of nursing homes, as well as the poor.

on the page but hoped to hear from “others who want to share their ideas and experiences with very local grass roots efforts.” But over the weeks that followed, GOTV ideas poured in . . . so GrassRoots Delco targeted college students, and their parents, to make certain they understood voting registration rules in different states, the benefit of absentee balloting for certainty that their vote would be counted. “APPLY FOR ONE NOW! RIGHT NOW” and by visiting votespa.com. She even mom-scolded: “If you don’t bother to take this little bit of time to do the right thing NOW, you can plan on spending the next 20 years paying off your own damn student loans!”

Now, with the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, GrassRoots Delco sent emails to Senators Collins, Murkowski, Heitkamp, Graham, Flake, Corker, and “rogue” Dem Joe Manchin with a clear, concise message: “Your vote affects every American woman, not just your constituents... Do not send us backwards. Be at least that brave. VOTE NO.”

Still, the most significant feature of GrassRoots Delco is the corner protest. What began as a call for justice and reunification for border families has morphed into something more. Baraldi expanded and clarified other issues that might be more compelling for the corner protests, without losing sight of those caged children. She explained: “As we move toward GOTV, we need to consider what issues are probably most pressing for the passing motorists. People usually vote for things that most directly affect them and their families. If you’ve paid attention to the cars passing through our intersection, I’d hazard that 75-80% are solid working class – what will make them get to the polls on Nov. 6? Health care? especially pre-existing conditions; taxes and allowed deductions; Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security; union strength, public education; voting rights; social and racial justice, gender equality, fair districts and education funding... SO, WHICH ISSUE WILL YOUR FIVE-WORD SIGN ADDRESS? SAY IT LOUD, SAY IT CLEAR!”

From Baraldi’s perspective, corner protests, no matter how large or small, serve a particular function: “The original intent of this movement was to be a visible voice of and to the people, the ones that drive by us, and the ones that live next door. My purpose is in inserting a message into the minds of the people passing by. Even if they forget seeing me five minutes later, the message is still in there. Our tactic will continue to be to get the attention of, and make our 10-second pitch to those same commuters every week -- healthcare, living wage, unions. Ten seconds may not seem like much, but week after week, the message gets imprinted and hopefully heeded. I hope you ‘roadside warriors’ know that you ARE making a difference.”

How Do We Measure the Health of the Economy?

Republicans continue to point to the low unemployment rate, the soaring stock market, and the growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as indicators of the health of the US Economy.

- The unemployment rate does not take into account the many people who have given up looking for work and it does not tell us what kinds of jobs are available with what wages or salaries.
- The majority of Americans do not own stock. Increases in stock prices do not necessarily translate into corporate investments that produce good-paying jobs.
- GDP does not measure how the wealth of our economy is distributed across income groups. A growing economy does not float all boats.

The Bottom Line

Despite seemingly positive indicators (unemployment rate, stock prices, and GDP), the net effect of Republican policies has been to expand the gap between the wealthy and the rest of us. Wage growth is slow. There is no support for a Federal minimum wage. And many workers lack the requisite skills to get good-paying jobs.

On the expense side of the family ledger, out-of-pocket payments for health care and education not only make it hard to balance a family budget, they make it increasingly impossible to save for retirement.

This situation can only be turned around if Democrats take control of Congress. That’s why the November election is one of the most important elections in our lives.

Has GrassRoots Delco succeeded in reaching her goal with the protests? Yes and no. “I’m feeling a bit discouraged that this idea of very local activism isn’t catching fire, but I’m not giving up. I would love to hear from anyone who has some ideas on how to fan the grassroots fire. Reach out to someone still on the passive sidelines. Or just show up at their door with an extra sign. I had hoped for the street corner idea to take hold in other Delco municipalities -- for additional psychic impact delivered on the commuter’s way home. Then maybe that evening, and even the next day, they would talk about the signs on all the corners, and the honking. And the weekly reminder to VOTE! Because this is a mid-term election, we need to get that message embedded. Instead of calling your congressman today, call a friend who you think may finally be ready to take this very small step into activism. Use guilt if you have to! Can anyone think of those children and not be ashamed for sitting on the couch?”

On the other hand, protestors have appeared every Monday evening, including Labor Day, and the horns from passing motorists signaling approval have continued. Moreover, a new development is the national twitter movement #StandOnEveryCorner. GrassRootsDELCO promptly signed on!

“When we started our GrassRoots page we thought we were a lone voice in the wilderness. NOT SO! We are NOT ALONE. There are people just like us – just like YOU – in the nation that starts at our own doorstep! The nation that drives through our own town every day. We need to talk to THAT NATION! We need to stop calling on our politicians to change. WE NEED TO CHANGE POLITICIANS!”

Terry herself is new to activism, starting shortly after the 2016 election as a Tuesdays with Toomey rabble rouser. And she lives and dies with the highs and lows as they come. But even at the lowest point, she is encouraged by a recent conversation with 5th Congressional District Democratic candidate Mary Gay Scanlon, who confided: “Tuesdays with Toomey was one of the things that made her decision to run... because after a year and more we were still standing. And activist groups on busy corners are doing the work of energizing the people. Mary Gay renewed my flagging energies in this fight. PERSIST!”

Is it working? You’re damn right it is. The protests will continue through November 5th, reminding everyone that they can take action against those policies by voting on November 6th.

Thank you Terry Baraldi and GrassRoots Delco. In turn, Terry thanks Catherine Coll, her IT guru, for building GrassRootsDELCO and carrying her through the unfamiliar world of social media.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Figure Drawing at Art Space Lansdowne
Mondays 7:00 pm
25 S. Lansdowne Avenue

Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meetings
First Wednesday of each month
7:30 PM – Borough Hall

Lansdowne Borough Council General Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month
7:30 PM – Borough Hall

Lansdowne Democratic Committee
Second Monday of each month (excluding November)
7:00 PM
Borough Hall

Lansdowne Farmers Market
Each Saturday from Memorial Day through October
30 N. Lansdowne Avenue
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Next to Lansdowne Landing

William Penn School Board Committee Meeting
Third Monday of each month (except Jul & Aug)
6:30 PM – Green Avenue Board Room

William Penn School Board Business Meeting
Fourth Monday of each month
6:30 PM – Green Avenue Board Room

SCHEDULED EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 3
5K Harvest Run
Sponsored by LEDC
8:30 AM

Sunday, November 4
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Turn clocks back an hour and change batteries in smoke & carbon monoxide detectors

Sunday, November 4
Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra Performance
3:00 PM
LansdowneSO.org

Monday, November 5
Lansdowne Democratic Committee
7:00 PM
Lansdowne Borough Hall

Tuesday, November 6
GENERAL ELECTION
Your vote! Your voice!
See map of polling places on page 2.
Polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, November 6
LBGC Volunteer meeting!
7:30 PM
Art Space Lansdowne

Thursday, November 8
Autism Awareness Event
7:00 PM
Lansdowne Public Library

Friday, November 9
Veterans’ Day Dinner (BYOB)
See Lansdowne American Legion
Post 65 Facebook page for details

Sunday, November 11
Veterans’ Day (Observed 11/12)
Federal Holiday

Tuesday, November 13
Delaware County Council Agenda Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Wednesday, November 14
Delaware County Council General Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Thursday, November 15
Lansdowne Folk Club presents The Stable Shakers
7:00 PM
Twentieth Century Club

Saturday, November 17
Lansdowne Farmers Market Pre-Thanksgiving
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
30 N. Lansdowne Ave.

Saturday, November 17
Chili Cook-Off
1:00 PM
Lansdowne Landing

Thursday, November 22
Thanksgiving Day
Show your gratitude!
Federal Holiday

Friday, November 23
A Bit of the Arts Opening Night
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Twentieth Century Club

Saturday, November 24
Small Business Saturday
Sponsored by LBPA

Saturday, November 24
A Bit of the Arts
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Twentieth Century Club

Saturday, November 24
Annual Tree Lighting Celebration
6:30 PM
30 N. Lansdowne Avenue

Tuesday, November 27
Delaware County Council Agenda Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Wednesday, November 28
Delaware County Council General Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Thursday, November 29
Lansdowne Folk Club presents Ryanhood
7:00 PM
Twentieth Century Club

DECEMBER
Sunday, December 2
Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra Performance
3:00 PM
LansdowneSO.org

Monday, December 3
William Penn School District Reorganizational Meeting

Tuesday, December 4
Lansdowne Boys and Girls Club Volunteer Meeting
7:30 PM
Art Space Lansdowne

Tuesday, December 4
Delaware County Council Agenda Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Wednesday, December 5
Delaware County Council General Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Saturday, December 8
Holiday Parade on Lansdowne Avenue
6:00 PM; Greenwood Ave. to Lansdowne Landing
Sponsored by Lansdowne Borough & LBPA

Monday, December 10
Cookbook Club
Lansdowne Public Library

Monday, Dec 10 – Friday, Dec 14
Holiday Fun Week at the Lansdowne Landing

Tuesday, December 11
Delaware County Council Agenda Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Wednesday, December 12
Delaware County Council General Meeting
10:00 AM
1st Floor, Government Center Bldg.
Media, PA

Saturday, December 15
Lansdowne Farmers Market Winter Market
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
30 N. Lansdowne Ave.

EVENT LOCATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

20 20 House Gallery
20 Lansdowne Court

Art Space Lansdowne
23 S. Lansdowne Ave.

First Presbyterian Church
Lansdowne & Greenwood Avenues
610-622-0800

Hoffman Park
Scottdale Road

Interboro Park
112 Bartram Ave.

Lansdowne Boys & Girls Club
See Facebook page:
Lansdowne Boys & Girls Club

Lansdowne Businesss & Professional Association (LBPA)
www.shoplansdowne.com

Lansdowne Borough Hall
12 E. Baltimore Ave.
610-623-7300

Lansdowne Democratic Committee
PO. Box 1136, Lansdowne, PA 19050
www.lansdownedemocrats.com
lansdownedems@gmail.com

Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
32 E. Baltimore Avenue
www.lansdownesfuture.org

Lansdowne Folk Club Twentieth Century Club
84 S. Lansdowne Ave.
484-466-6213
www.folkclub.org

Lansdowne Landing
30 N. Lansdowne Ave.
Enter from either N. Lansdowne Ave. or Owen Ave

Lansdowne Public Library
55 S. Lansdowne Ave.
610-623-0239

Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra
Performances at the
Upper Darby Performing Arts Center
601 N. Lansdowne Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
www.lansdowneso.org

Twentieth Century Club
84 S. Lansdowne Ave.

William Penn School District
Administration Building
100 Green Ave.
www.willampennsd.org