



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## BULLETIN

Volume 42, Issue 1  
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P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133  
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**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
Christiansburg Branch-  
Montgomery-Floyd Regional  
Library

*125 Shelton St.  
Christiansburg*

**1 to 2:30 p.m.**

Featured speaker  
Megan Rhyne, executive director,  
Virginia Coalition for Open  
Government

**2:30 to 3 p.m.**

Networking and refreshments

**2:30 to 3 p.m.**

Featured local government  
officials  
Ruth Richey, Montgomery  
County  
Becky Wilburn, Christiansburg,  
Steve Ross, Blacksburg.

## Open Government/Freedom of Information Act Forum

The program offers citizens and local officials an opportunity to learn more about FOIA and Open Government and discover how our local governments are stepping up to make their governments more open and responsive to citizens.

The first session will feature a question-and-answer session by Megan Rhyne, executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government. She will speak on the Virginia FOIA / Open Government laws, including changes to the FOIA and Open Government laws that occurred during this year's General Assembly.



*Rhyne*

Rhyne will review the spirit, purpose, and language of the FOIA laws and will explain "how FOIA encourages requesters and government to work together." As she notes, "Whether you're a requester of records under the Freedom of Information Act or someone tasked with answering FOIA

requests, you should know that there is more to the statute than meets the eye."

The second session will feature a discussion of the processes and techniques Montgomery County, the Town of Christiansburg, and the Town of Blacksburg use to keep citizens informed and engaged.

Ruth Richey, public information officer for Montgomery County, Becky Wilburn, public information and human resources officer for the Town of Christiansburg, and Steve Ross, deputy town manager for the Town of Blacksburg, will share what is currently being done by each jurisdiction and what each jurisdiction has planned for the future.

"The free program offers an excellent training opportunity for local government employees and agencies, as well as citizens," said Carol Lindstrom, league member who organized the program. "We encourage everyone, whether citizen or government employee, to be a part of this program and take advantage of this opportunity."

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.*

## Contact the League

President  
Judy Snoke  
552-5273  
[judy\\_snoke@comcast.net](mailto:judy_snoke@comcast.net)

*1st V-P: (program chair)*  
Amy Mauldon  
951-1534  
[amauldon@gmail.com](mailto:amauldon@gmail.com)

*2nd V-P: (voter service chair)*  
Mary Houska  
552-2717  
[mfdh@aol.com](mailto:mfdh@aol.com)

*Treas: June Schmidt*  
552-1590  
[schmidtj@vt.edu](mailto:schmidtj@vt.edu)

Website  
[www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org)  
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## Gifts To Our League Support Programs

### **From members**

Phyllis Albritton in honor of Mary Houska  
Julia Lewis in honor of Mary Houska for  
all she has done for the LWVMC  
David Scheim  
Bea and Ted Ake  
Mary Houska in honor of Betty Williams  
Martha Lassiter  
Dee Pourchot  
Leslie Hager Smith in honor of David &  
Lindsay West  
Mary Ollendick  
Esther Youngs  
Mary Ann Johnson in memory of Dee  
Pourchot  
Millie Wiggert in memory of Jim Wiggert  
Shirley Strother  
Joan Zajac  
Elaine Head  
Isabel Berney in honor of Harriett Cooper

### **Friends**

Susan Magliaro  
Virginia Reilly in memory of Kitty  
Brennan  
Marilyn Klemperer  
Nannie Hairston in memory of Mary  
Fessler  
Robert Hendrickson

*Continue in next column*

## President's Message from Judy Snoke

# Planning for the year ahead

Members of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County have been busy all summer (except for August) working on programs and events for the 2013 – 2014 season. This summer Mary Houska, Voter Service Chair and David Scheim, Publicity Chair and technology expert, attended a demonstration of our newest voting machines by Registrar Randall Wertz. The new machines retain a paper record of all votes and will be introduced gradually around Montgomery County. An article about that is on page 3.

Darlene Allen, Carol Lindstrom, and Alison Galway have planned our opening program on Open Government and F.O.I.A., the Freedom of Information Act. The front page gives all the details.

Four Candidate Forums are planned and a lot of the details are on page 3. The House of Delegates Forum will take place if candidates of both parties attend. LWV policy does not allow single party forums.

Members are encouraged to submit questions to be addressed to the candidates at the forums to Mary Houska or any member of the Board. Note that the Blacksburg Forum on Oct. 3 is just before the Town Council Meeting on Oct. 8 at which a number of controversial development issues will be discussed.

### **Voter Guides in Next Issue**

Voter Guides will be in our next Bulletin and posted on our website at LWVMCVA.org. In addition, questionnaires prepared by candidates for the General Assembly will be posted on Vote411.org.

Other events are in the planning stages, including a “dessert” event with members of the Blacksburg Town Council.

January/February will bring a local study of Natural Resources, Planning, Sustainability, and Impacts of Growth in Montgomery County led by member and community planner Meghan Dorsett.

A program related to the LWV-US Agriculture Study may be held in March.

April will bring the Annual Program Planning/Consensus Meeting.

This year the Annual Meeting will be held May 15 in the Common Room at Warm Hearth Village.

## Following Procedures Important in Using New Machines Posters at Voting Sites Will Remind Voters

Montgomery County will, in the next four years, gradually replace its old voting machines with the Unisyn OVO Optical Scan Voting Machines. The Montgomery County Electoral Board invited the League to participate in the audit of the first new voting machine used in a precinct election, the June 11, 2013, Democratic Party primary for Lt. Governor and Virginia Attorney General in precinct F – 1.

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Annette and David Burr in honor of Betty Williams  
Charles Shorter  
Janice Litschert in memory of Dee Pourchot  
Sue and John Muffo  
Dr. James Shuler  
Leanne & Larry Mitchell  
Rita Carolyn Lange  
Suzie Leslie in memory of Ken Cooper

David Scheim and Mary Houska represented the League at the Aug. 22 audit. At the audit, the 98 paper ballots were recounted by members of the Electoral Board to determine whether their hand count was the same as the count on the OVO Optical Scan Voting Machine. With Optical Scanners, voters need to completely darken circles next to the name of the candidate of their choice.

Instead of doing this, several voters either drew a wide circle or an X, leading to a miscount of those ballots by the machine.

About five County precincts will use the new machines on Election Day, Nov. 5. To guide voters to properly vote, Registrar for Elections E. Randell Wertz, has ordered large instructional posters for each precinct and precinct workers will remind voters how to properly use the new machine as they check in.

# Candidate Forums Planned for local elections

Forums for candidates in local elections are planned but all the details are not finalized, said Mary Houska, voter service chair, The League is planning forums for all the candidates who are in races that are opposed. Additional Forums for other elections are scheduled in October.

Several offices are not contested. Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam and the Christiansburg Vice Mayor, Councilman D. Michael Barber, both are running unopposed for mayor of their towns so they will not be participating in their town council forums. When there is not opposition, it is the League's policy not to sponsor a forum at which only one person speaks. All candidates are invited to attend forums.

All Candidate Forums will be professionally video-taped and each will be available for viewing online a few days after that Forum.

## Blacksburg Town Council Forum Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

Blacksburg Town Council Chambers Blacksburg Town Hall  
300 S. Main St.  
Blacksburg

Four candidates for three seats on the Council:  
Incumbents Susan Anderson, Krishna Chachra, Cecile Newcomb, and challenger April Demotts,



Anderson

Chachra

Demotts

Newcomb

## Online Voter Registration

The State Board of Elections (SBE) in partnership with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers online voter registration.

Eligible citizens may submit a voter registration application or update their registration information online.

The Montgomery County Registrar of Elections is E. Randall Wertz. The office is on the first floor of the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg. Citizens can register to vote for the Nov. 5 elections until Oct. 15.

To complete the application process online, citizens must provide their Virginia DMV customer identifier number, which is displayed on DMV issued identifications cards or Driver's Licenses. Citizens who do not have a Virginia DMV customer identifier may still fill out the registration application online, but will be required to print and return the completed application

to the appropriate local registration office.

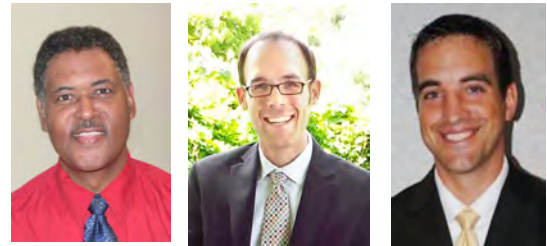
All voter registration application submissions are subject to review and approval by the appropriate local general registrar. Citizens will be notified directly via mail by the local office once an application has been processed. Voters will also be mailed a new or updated voter registration card once the appropriate general registrar accepts the application or update of information.

Online voter registration will enable eligible citizens to apply to register to vote and to update their registration information online at any time and regardless of where military service, family, or professional obligations may require them to be. The electronic online registration with verification of identification and data by the DMV will increase the accuracy and integrity of the voter rolls and assist state and local officials.

## Christiansburg Town Council Forum Thursday, Oct. 10 7:30 p.m.

Christiansburg Town Council Chambers  
Christiansburg Town Hall  
100 East Main St.  
Christiansburg

Five candidates for three seats on the Council:  
Incumbents R. Cord Hall, Steve Huppert, and Bradford "Brad" Stipes and challengers Samuel "Sam" Bishop II, David Fransulich



Bishop

Fransulich

Hall



Huppert

Stipes

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**Nov. 5**

*Last Day To Register To Vote  
Oct. 15*

## Calendar

- Oct. 3, 7 pm Blacksburg Town Council Forum, Blacksburg Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St. Blacksburg
- Oct. 10, 7:30 pm Christiansburg Town Council Forum Christiansburg Town Council Chambers, Christiansburg Town Hall 100 East Main St. Christiansburg
- Oct. 17, 7 pm House of Delegates Forum, Blacksburg Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St. Blacksburg
- Oct. 24, 7 pm Forum for Board of Supervisors/School Board, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg.

## Bulletin Sponsors

**Dr. Richard W. Harrell, The Hearing Clinic (540) 552-1904**

**Runabout Sports – A Great Place for Shoes (540) 552-9339**

**Education Programs & Services LLC – Wayne “Dempsey” Worner (540) 552-8807**

**Companion Animal Clinic, Inc., Blacksburg (540) 552-6800**

### JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$50. This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin. Email: [Membership@lwvmcva.org](mailto:Membership@lwvmcva.org). Or email Alison Wilson at [alisonwilson@verizon.net](mailto:alisonwilson@verizon.net)