



PRESERVATION AND PROGRESS

A Newsletter of the Chadds Ford Democratic Party
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WHY A NEWSLETTER?

The answer is quite simple: Because we need it. The coming election is a critical one for our swing County. We need to communicate with our Democratic neighbors now more than ever. While voters are focused on national politics, they tend not to see how local elections affect them. At the same time, The Chadds Ford Post and its balanced editorial page have been swallowed by The Kennett Paper (which seems to be giving its support to the most extreme right-wing candidates for UHS School Board). Although Barack Obama came within 20 votes of defeating John McCain in Chadds Ford, the Township Supervisors continue to act as though they were elected to represent only half of our residents. We are seeking a seat at the table. The Republican establishment (not our Republican friends and neighbors mind you) is trying to keep us out of the room. We hope this newsletter becomes a tool to spread useful information and helps us to establish a community dialogue. You could see it as a new voice in an ongoing conversation. Thanks for reading.

THIS ELECTION MATTERS TO YOU

by Nancy Baulis
Candidate for County Council

For those of us who are involved with elections, it is great to see voters come to the polls to vote for President and Governor. However, these offices do not affect your daily life nearly as much as your Delaware County elected officials. Your School Board, Judges, Supervisors, Tax Collectors, and other local office holders are the ones who decide on your children's education; how your police, fire, and ambulance service will operate; how and when your trash will be collected; how your roads are cared for; how parks and open space will be handled; and so much more. Your tax dollars, both in Chadds Ford and at the County level, are controlled by these local elected officials. Your County Council members oversee running the county, such as Fair Acres, the Prison contract, the Election Bureau, and when to raise your taxes or create a new department such as a Health Department (which Delaware County does not have... something to think about next time you go out to a restaurant or convenience store).

This year's election cycle is referred to as an "off year" because voters have no State or Federal elections to get excited about; many will not come out to vote, but they should... because this is actually the year that they can effect real change in their daily lives by voting in their County elections.

STILL TIME FOR CHANGE IN DELAWARE COUNTY

by Keith Collins
Candidate for County Council

If you are anything like me, you may still be coming down from that feeling we all had on election night, at the inauguration, and every day since Delaware County voted to elect Barack Obama the 44th President with 60% of the vote. At the same time, you might not know that Delaware County is the only county in the Commonwealth without minority representation. Even Philadelphia has 3 Republicans on its council. Our five member County Council has not had a Democratic representative on it since 1978. One party controls the spending of over \$500 million in tax revenues; and the vast majority of other elected offices, appointed offices, and 15,000 county jobs are held by Republicans.

This model of government is monolithic and does not represent the values of over 40% of registered voters. It is important that we, as a County, begin to embrace political, cultural, and ideological diversity for the good of us all. Government's highest role is to facilitate a climate where people are encouraged to pursue their destiny and enhance society. When any segment of society is marginalized the consequences are far reaching. When elected, I will endeavor to serve all the people of Delaware County and work to make government more accessible and transparent. I will work in a bi-partisan manner with my Republican colleagues for the safety and prosperity of Delaware County. I'm hoping to challenge some of the policies that have gone unchallenged and unchecked. The energy of thought required to fulfill the greatest needs of the entire community requires differing views, like a battery which requires both negative and positive poles, to complete its task effectively. Right now the voices and thoughts of almost 160,000 voters have no representation. If we don't make a change now, then when?

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 19 – PRIMARY DAY!

Sunday, June 7 – CFDP Meeting

Sunday, Sept 13 – Chadds Ford Meet the Candidates Event

Tuesday, Nov 3 – Election Day

FOR CALENDAR DETAILS AND INFORMATION, VOTER REGISTRATION, ABSENTEE BALLOTS, CANDIDATES, CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND MUCH MORE VISIT US AT:

www.chaddsforddemocrats.com