



DEMOCRAT

Central Baltimore
County's Democratic
Club Newsletter

COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT HIGHLIGHTS OUR OCTOBER MEETING

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Comptroller Franchot Visits CBCD October Meeting

Peter Franchot is an independent, fiscal watchdog for the taxpayers of Maryland. Franchot has worked tirelessly to keep Maryland competitive in the knowledge-based economy, create a climate of economic equality and protect the state's natural resources. He's an effective and principled advocate that stands up for Maryland.

Peter Franchot is a committed public servant who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of people across Maryland. An army veteran, Franchot served with distinction in the Maryland

House of Delegates for 20 years and has ably served the people of Maryland as their Comptroller since January 2007.

During his time in the Maryland House of Delegates, Franchot was a member of the Appropriations Committee and served as Chairman of the Transportation & the Environment Subcommittee. Throughout his career, he has been a strong advocate for education, health care, transportation and environmental protection initiatives.



Solar Decathlon

Learn about the energy- and water-efficient house designed by University of Maryland that won the 2011 Solar Decathlon

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Bobby Zirkin on School Boards

Sen. Bobby Zirkin (D-11) shares his thoughts on the ongoing efforts to reform the Baltimore County School Board and how you can weigh in.

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President's Letter

By Anne Neal



We are excited that **Comptroller Peter Franchot** is our distinguished guest for our October meeting. We hope you will join us to welcome him on **October 11**. Please come for refreshments at 6:45 pm. The meeting will begin at approximately 7 pm. Our September meeting, with **Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown**, was a great success. Attendees were enthusiastic and had plenty of questions for the Lt. Governor. We appreciate so much how generous Lt. Governor Brown is with his time.

Homework? Yes, we have homework for you for the October meeting. We will take written questions for Comptroller Franchot. The Comptroller will be able to answer more questions that way. When you arrive at the meeting, you will be able to take an index card on which you can write your question. So start thinking about important issues that you would like the Comptroller to address.

Additionally, we want to know which **issues** the members would like to ask the club to endorse. Index cards will be available at the meeting upon which we ask that you write down the issues that interest you. We are asking that members limit the ideas to two state issues and one local issue. At a later meeting, we will discuss the issues about which there is the most interest and draft **endorsements** that match the wishes of the club. You must be a **current member** in order to recommend and vote on the issues at upcoming meetings so **pay those dues**.

We will welcome **Delegate Dana Stein** to our November 8th meeting. Delegate Stein is one of your most thoughtful and creative legislators. He will discuss his novel, **Fire in the Wind**, a very timely book in light of the controversies swirling around climate change. The reviews are in and they are glowing. <http://tinyurl.com/3tok93f>

On December 13, we will host our annual **Holiday Party**. It is always a great success

and anybody who is anybody will be there so mark your calendars.

Yes, there's good stuff coming in the next few months so become a member and get involved in the **best Democratic Club in the State!**

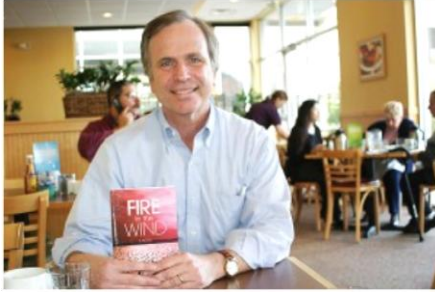
And now – my rant. Against my better judgment, I watched some of the Republican/Tea Party debates. What a bunch of spineless, gutless wonders. It was enough to make you yearn for John McCain, bite my tongue. They want to become the leader of this great country and every one of them stood mute like a statue while audience members cheered executions, called for death to the uninsured and booed a member of the armed services. Not a wag of a finger or a roll of an eye to be had. Boorish bigots in the audience were to be expected. I expected more from those on stage. So think of those moments if you find yourself not feeling up to the fight in 2012. I will.

- Anne

SUBMISSION POLICY

This newsletter is created by a handful of volunteers who make every attempt to publish factual information, and who wish to encourage the free exchange of information and opinions. However, the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the CBCDC or official policies of the club. All images taken from public domain, press kits or used with permission. Please send submissions to newsletter editor at stegmata@gmail.com. The deadline for all submissions is 14 days before the monthly meeting or the 23rd of each month.

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 8th General Meeting

We'll be joined by Delegate and author **Dana Stein** who will tell us about his book **Fire in the Wind** and preview the upcoming legislative session.



December 13th Holiday Party

Join us for our annual holiday celebration. Always a good time!

BALTIMORE COUNTY POLITICAL BITS

Congrats to club Secretary Vivienne Davis for being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee!

A new state law banning both reading and sending text messages while driving took effect October 1st. The law was sponsored by Baltimore County legislators Jim Brochin in the Senate and Jimmy Malone in the House of Delegates.

WHAT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

We've got an idea to give the club an active voice in a few of the important issues facing our county and state, but before we present it for discussion we need to decide what issues we care most about.

Start thinking about what your top state and local issues are and be ready to share at this month's meeting!



Energy- and water-efficient house designed by researchers at University of Maryland.

Terps Win Solar Decathlon

by Dan Ewald

The University of Maryland won the 2011 Solar Decathlon for their outstanding house that not only conserves energy, but also mitigates stormwater pollution. The WaterShed house won by combining affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. Purdue University took second place in the competition, and New Zealand (Victoria University of Wellington) received the third-place award.

The challenge is to provide a model of an affordable house powered only by the sun. The WaterShed house was powered by a 9.2 kW solar panel system, and also had a panel of solar thermal tubes to help heat water, a primary energy hog in the home. University of Maryland's and most other competitors designs displayed modern elements like large skylights to minimize lightbulbs, high efficiency appliances, minimal design, and locally sourced or sustainable wood in construction.

WaterShed was inspired by the Chesapeake Bay and focuses heavily on managing storm water, treating greywater and minimizing water usage. The roof of the WaterShed house collects stormwater into reservoirs for household usage. Its green roof design also lowers the heat island effect of the house, leading to lower energy bills. The miniature wetland constructed around the house is intended to filter the greywater resulting from using the dishwasher,

shower, bathroom sink or washing machine. Instead of the water being piped away via the sewage water line, plants and microorganisms naturally purify the water. While the resulting water wouldn't be used for human consumption, it can be used to water the edible garden at the house or released back into the environment with almost no impact on local waterways.

Another feature of the house is the indoor desiccant waterfall feature which is used to lower humidity. Many people living in our region suffer through high humidity and use their air conditioning to lower indoor humidity along with lowering temperatures. However, using your AC to lower humidity is not energy efficient. University of Maryland's desiccant waterfall is able to draw water from the air with minimal energy costs while providing an attractive indoor feature.



Creating Jobs and Ensuring American Prosperity

by Jim Kehl

The chairman of the Federal Reserve recently announced that the economy is not in very good shape. Polls indicate that 70% of Americans do not believe the current administration's policies are improving the economy. The only good news is that those same Americans are less confident that the Republican-controlled House will enact policies to create jobs. What is happening and why? The reasons are many and beyond the scope of this column. However, I would like to make an overall observation.

Jennifer M. Granholm and Dan Mulhern have recently described what has occurred in Michigan during the last decade in their recently released book entitled *A Governor's Story, The Fight for Jobs and America's Economic Future*. The first point made by these authors is that we have had thirty years of conservative policies of tax cuts, deregulation and a reduction of government's involvement in business. As the American people have concluded, these conservative policies have not created profits, jobs or prosperity because global competition has rendered these conservative, free-markets, *laissez-faire* policies obsolete.

Despite tax cuts and deregulation in America during the last 30 years, approximately 42,000 manufacturing plants have closed in the United States. The reason those plants have closed in

America and moved their operations to foreign countries is that foreign governments have provided American companies with inducements to do business in those countries in the form of subsidies, loans and cheap labor. In summary, the foreign governments are supporting the industries in their countries whereas the American government is not supporting businesses in America because, according to the conservatives, "government does not do anything right,"



In Baltimore County and in the 42nd District, specifically, there seems to be an unspoken belief that Baltimore County residents are not affected by these conditions because many of these citizens have white-collar jobs and are professionals.

Many Baltimore County residents apparently believe that it is in their best interests to vote for politicians like Andy Harris who support antiquated conservative policies and who do not support job-creating legislation. Our fellow Baltimore County citizens need to realize that accounting, legal, high-technology and other professional jobs

can be and are being moved overseas by American corporations.

Granholm and Mulhern recommend the adoption of a "uniquely American, globally competitive approach to economic growth." Abandonment of the conservative ideology that has placed America at a disadvantage with respect to global competition does not entail a return to old liberal policies that have failed. Instead, we must look to the future and lead the way in new industries, such as clean energy.

The recent loan by the U. S. government to General Motors - which conservatives opposed - and that corporation's adoption of new ways of doing business is a classic example of how government can be used to help business. General Motors has fully repaid that loan with interest and saved many American jobs. We need more demonstrations of government helping

private industry in order to become more globally competitive and to ensure future American prosperity.

WANT TO READ MORE?

You can purchase a copy of Jennifer Granholm and Dan Mulhern's **A Governor's Story: The Fight for Jobs and America's Economic Future** at any bookstore and on Amazon. You can also borrow it from the public library, which is financed by your tax dollars. Just sayin'...

MARYLAND POLITICAL NEWS



Gov. Stars in Marriage Equality Ad

Governor O'Malley is starring in a series of ads aimed at building support for marriage equality legislation during the 2012 session. O'Malley promised to introduce marriage legislation next session.



Special Session

The general Assembly will return to Annapolis on October 17th for Special Session. They will tackle redistricting, hold caucus meetings and maybe consider some economic stimulus bills.



Congressional Redistricting

The Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee has released their proposed Congressional map and there appear to be big changes in store for Baltimore County. To see the maps and learn about the redistricting process, visit:

www.mdp.state.md.us/Redistricting/

The Future of Baltimore County's School Board

by Senator Bobby Zirkin

The follow letter was sent by Sen. Zirkin to constituents regarding current efforts to reform the Baltimore County School Board and is reprinted with his permission.

Dear Friends,

The future of Baltimore County's School Board has been a hot topic of debate for years. There is currently a task force seeking input from citizens of Baltimore County and I encourage you to let your thoughts be known. As you may know, I have been a proponent of moving toward a democratic process for selecting our school board members. I have been the lead sponsor of creating a 'hybrid school board,' made up of both elected and appointed members. Currently, Baltimore County is one of a small fraction of counties in our state and across the nation that have absolutely NO elected representation on its school board.

Unfortunately, several members of the task force have sought to use parliamentary maneuvers and tricks to thwart what appears to be consensus among Baltimore County citizens on this issue. Those members seek to keep the status quo in our County despite overwhelming testimony of the need for change. You can read about what has transpired in several publications including the Baltimore Sun and the online "patch.com." Regardless of whether you believe that the board should be fully elected, partially elected through a 'hybrid' process, remain the same, or some other creative idea, that decision belongs to the citizens of Baltimore County and not a few politicians in Towson or Annapolis.

I am proud that a majority of the Baltimore County Council has already endorsed moving toward a hybrid school board and that a majority of the Senate delegation has endorsed that idea as well. I assure you that, despite the efforts of a few to subvert the will of the people in Baltimore County, we will continue to press forward with this important reform to create real accountability for those making decisions for our children.

In the coming legislative session, I will once again join colleagues in introducing a bill to create a hybrid school board in Baltimore County. In addition, if that legislation does not succeed this year, I will push for a straw vote on the next election ballot so that the citizens of Baltimore County can be heard on this issue.

I invite you to share your thoughts about the Baltimore County School Board and its selection process. Although people may disagree on the issue, I hope we can all agree that the decision belongs to the people and not to a few politicians. Please join me in sharing your views by responding to this email, taking the online poll at Patch.com, or contacting other members of the task force to share your thoughts.

It is an honor to serve you in the Maryland State Senate and I look forward to hearing from you on this or any other issue of interest.

Sincerely,

Bobby Zirkin, Senator

Central Baltimore County Democratic Club Annual Membership Form

ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$20 PER MEMBER

Renew online at: <http://www.cbcdc.org/membership.php>

Make Check Payable to the the CBCDC

Mail to: CBCDC, Inc., P.O. Box 5194 Lutherville, MD 21094

Note: Dues and donations to CBCDC, Inc. are not tax deductible



___ I (we) would like to help support the CBCDC by renewing my (our) annual dues. Enclosed, please find my (our) annual dues of \$___.

___ I (we) have also included an additional \$___ as a donation to the club and/or the Political Action Committee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

(CBCDC Sends out its monthly newsletter by email to reduce our carbon footprint and save much-needed funds. If you want to receive your copy by mail, please let Judy Harris know: jharris341@aol.com or 410-853-7717.)

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