



News from the Grassroots

August 2021 Issue 106



Virtual Grassroots Gathering: September 10-11, 2021!

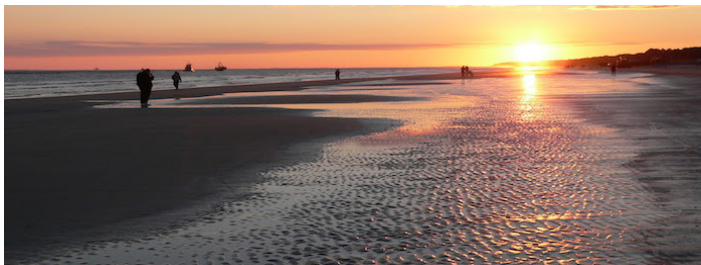
Friday night, September 10, will be for fun and community connections, including our traditional talent show. Don't miss Saturday morning from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. when we will celebrate our work over the past year and hear from keynote speakers Attorney General Mark Herring and Libero della Piana from Alliance for a Just Society.

Talent Show 2021!

Don't just picture yourself in the talent show, make it happen! Play or sing a song. Invite your children to participate. Watch with family and friends. All are welcome to participate in English, Spanish, or American Sign Language.

Beach Raffle 2021!

We're offering raffle tickets, and the winner will be announced on September 11. The winner will be given one week at a 3-bedroom, ocean front condo in Hilton Head Island, SC. Week is negotiable with owners and not all weeks will be available.



Take action!

Today would be a good day to call Senator Mark Warner and tell him to support bold investments in the budget by raising at least \$4 trillion from fairer taxes on the wealthy and corporations. It's time for our tax code to reward work not wealth.

CALL NOW 1-888-894-6720

Poll Supports Tax Fairness

Karen Downing (Eastern Shore Chapter board member) and Anita Royston (Danville Chapter and Pittsylvania County NAACP) and our partners held a virtual briefing on August 10 to call on Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to support raising taxes on the rich and corporations to pay for the public spending we need.

During the briefing we released a new poll with The Commonwealth Institute For Fiscal Analysis and Americans for Tax Fairness that shows that Virginians overwhelmingly support raising taxes on the rich and corporations. We hope our U.S. Senators and the whole Virginia Congressional delegation will stand with Virginia voters!

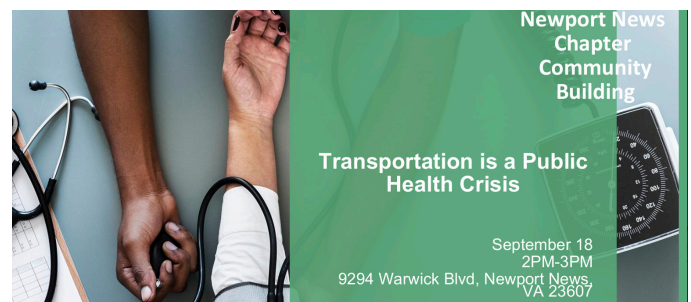
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**We hope Senator Mark Warner and Senator
Tim Kaine will stand with Virginia voters!**

September Health Care Actions!

During the month of September, Waynesboro, Newport News, and Richmond Chapters will all be holding local actions to support better health care, affordable housing, transportation, and other issues in their communities. Contact us to get involved!



Fredericksburg Leaders Speak out about the Child Tax Credit

Leaders in the Fredericksburg Chapter featured recently in a Free-lance-Star article about the importance of the child tax credit.

From the article by Adele Uphaus:

"Juana Hart, a single mother, used the money to catch up on rent for the basement apartment where she lives with two sons. Hart, who was born in Mexico, is employed at a local pharmacy and also works part-time as a prevention specialist for a local nonprofit.

"She said she hurt her back while working at the pharmacy during the pandemic. She can only work "light duty" and has not been given enough hours, she said.

"Her ex-husband was paying child support until he lost his job as a result of the pandemic.

"The cost of everything is going up," Hart said. "Rent is going up. Milk is going up. Gas is going up. My kids are 12 and 13. They are eating a lot, growing a lot. Clothes and shoes are expensive."

"Hart said the child tax credit payments are a start towards creating equity for tax-paying families.

"We are working hard, but our job doesn't pay enough," she said. "We have to pay taxes, but we don't get anything back. Not everyone gets something back. There is no equity."

"Several nationwide polls have suggested that a majority of the population supports the new child tax credit."

Vice Chair Duane Edwards was also interviewed by Uphaus.

"Duane Edwards, who works as a truck driver and lives in Fredericksburg with his wife and two children, said he has always used the child tax credit to fix or improve things around his house or change the tires on his car—routine maintenance he wasn't able to fit into his household budget.

"With the cost of living going up but wages not, let's put money into programs that strengthen not just the market but back into the people," said Edwards...

"People are still suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic," he said, and "this is something the country can do."

"This country is too great for one emergency to be the end of you," Edwards said. "We have come too far for that, and this credit will prevent that."

Virginia Organizing has partnered with Community Change Action to lobby for making the Child Tax Credit permanent. Please call your member of Congress and Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and urge them to include a permanent Child Tax Credit in the budget this year.

**Building back better
means building back
child care.**

Your move, Congress.

COMMUNITY
CHANGE

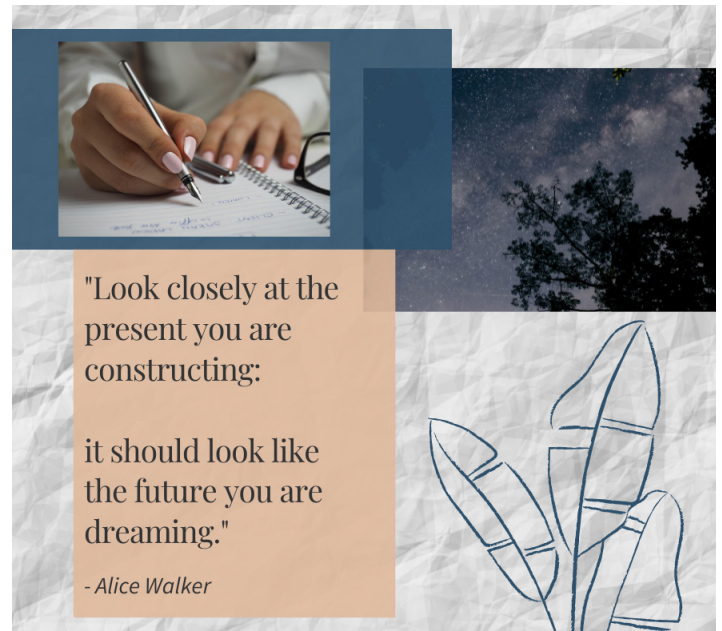
**Call the Congressional
switchboard at
202-224-3121 today!**

Resiliency & Self-Care

Leader Ronna Wertman from Augusta County has published the summer edition of her beautiful newsletter about resiliency and self-care for people working for justice.

Read the newsletter on our website:

<https://tinyurl.com/ResiliencySelfCare>



Local Chapters and Areas Served:

Charlottesville/Albemarle County
Danville
Eastern Shore
Harrisonburg/Rockingham County
Fredericksburg
Lee County
Lynchburg
Martinsville/Henry County
New River Valley
Newport News
Norfolk
Portsmouth
Richmond/Chesterfield/Henrico
Staunton/Augusta County
Suffolk
Washington County
Waynesboro

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