



The Compass

Harrison County Democracy for America Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1 Summer 2007

Note from HC DFA Chairman Jerry McKeen



Sen. Jay Rockefeller and Chairman Jerry McKeen at the Regional J-J Dinner.

Ahhh yes! These days of lazy, hazy summer are upon us. But as it slips by so very quickly, there is still so much to do and so very little time in which to get it done. Our little DFA group continues to fight the good fight as we look forward to the 2008 elections just a year and a half away.

As you look over the following pages of THE COMPASS, you will see some of what has already made this year one of our most active. While our numbers continue to grow, our influence continues to multiply by leaps and bounds. This year we have already had more involvement by our members than ever before, evidenced by the response to our activities, calls for action, and support for our legislative and community awareness efforts.

We began the year with an informative visit by the WV Director of the ACLU at our January meeting. Andrew Schneider answered many of our questions and dispelled many misunderstandings of the work of this important group in our state. In February there was a visit to the state legislature as we worked with the WV Citizens Action Group to promote public financing of campaigns, environmental issues, and a few other bills. President Pro Tem Ron Fragale assisted our group with actually writing some legislation of our own and we watched as it was introduced in the House of Delegates, although it failed to make it much further, we hope to try again next year. In March there was the "Third Annual Candlelight Vigil for the Fallen Soldiers in Iraq and Prayers for Peace Program" in downtown Clarksburg with the Rev. Jim Lewis as our speaker.

We also sent a delegation to the "March on the Pentagon" in Washington, DC, where we were able to meet Cindy Sheehan and others involved in the "End the War" and "Impeach Bush" campaigns. In April we began our 2007 Film Series that included "The War Tapes" and later Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and sponsored a Clarksburg City Council Candidate Debate in May. DFA had a table at the Regional Jefferson-Jackson Dinner featuring Senator Rockefeller in June and also was represented at the Rotary Awards Dinner for Congressman Mollohan later that month.

There is still a lot of action lined up for the rest of the year and our regular meetings on the first Wednesday of every month are always open to the public. You are most welcome to come and learn more about what we do!

Updated HC DFA Mission Statement:

The mission of Harrison County Democracy for America shall be to uphold and promote the democratic principles and ideals that are established by the Constitution of the United States of America.

In so doing, the organization will work toward more responsive local, state and national government by encouraging and promoting the accountability of all elected officials; by insisting that all elections be truly democratic, open and fair; and to work toward keeping the public informed about the issues and concerns that are being decided by our elected officials and legislative bodies.

In the pursuit of this Mission, Harrison County Democracy for America shall make every effort to inform and educate the electorate about but not limited to the following issues and concerns: Human rights and conditions; Environmental protection and conservation; Social justice and responsibility; Foreign Relations and world citizenship; and Democracy and transparency in our government.

Rev. Jim Lewis Speaks at Clarksburg Vigil

Charleston peace activist, the Reverend Jim Lewis, was the featured speaker at the Third Annual Vigil for the Fallen on March 19, 2007 held at the Democratic Headquarters in Clarksburg. The event was moved from the Harrison County Courthouse Plaza due to the inclement weather. Sponsored by Harrison County Democracy for America, the vigil was planned for the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War to honor all of the more than 3,100 American soldiers who had given the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in Iraq.



The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Josie Kennedy Rea and Jordan Kennedy Rea. The Reverend Olen Butcher-Winfrey, pastor of the Vincent Memorial Methodist Church, offered the invocation and benediction. Jerry McKeen, Chairman of Harrison County Democracy for America served as master of ceremonies for the program, and Sally Egan, DFA Secretary, read all of the names of the West Virginia Honor Roll.

Each of the eighteen West Virginians included in that number were afforded special tribute by the display of each of their framed pictures highlighted by candles that were lighted by Iraq War Veteran, Ron Eagle of Bridgeport. The program included musical selections by Glen Shaffer and honored all of the fallen by the expression of a sincere desire for peace in Iraq.

The featured speaker, Reverend Jim Lewis, has been active in war and peace issues since he came out of the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was an infantry officer. His travels on peace missions

have been to Cuba, Central America, Libya, Jordan, Iraq and Israel/Palestine. In 2002 he organized a group in Charleston called "Patriots for Peace", a peace and justice organization that now has a network of over 1,000 West Virginians.

Over the past 40 years, Jim has been actively engaged with addressing social issues in local communities in which he has served as an Episcopal clergyperson. He has served in churches and dioceses in Maryland, West Virginia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Delaware. While working in support of various social issues, he has appeared on Sixty Minutes and has been a guest on the Phil Donahue Show and the Maury Povitch Show.

Rev. Lewis has authored two of his own books, *West Virginia Pilgrim* and *The Gulf War: The Churches & Peacemaking*, and has written Op-ed pieces for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Charleston Gazette*, the *Wilmington News Journal*, the *Raleigh News and Observer* and has contributed to several other publications. He is currently working on another book and resides in Charleston with his wife, Judith. He has one son, two daughters and nine grandchildren.

This event was the third candlelight Vigil presented by HC DFA on the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. Each has paid tribute to the fallen soldiers in that war and has also been a demonstration of how deeply troubled we are by our government's refusal to respond to the wishes of the American people concerning this misguided and poorly conducted war.

We hope our readers will join us in our hopes and prayers that this conflict will soon be resolved and that our government will soon be more responsive to the will of the people.

HC DFA Members March on the Pentagon

On March 17, 2007, a few stalwart members of our organization left Harrison County long before dawn, to travel to Morgantown, where they, along with members of WV for Democracy, boarded a bus headed for Washington, D.C. to join others in a huge antiwar protest.

This "March on the Pentagon" denounced a conflict entering its fifth year, as protesters across the country raised their voices against U.S. policy in Iraq, and marched by the thousands to the Pentagon in the footsteps of an epic demonstration four decades ago against another divisive war.

Thousands crossed the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial to rally loudly but peacefully near the Pentagon. "We're here in the shadow of the war machine," said anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan. Other speakers at the Pentagon rally criticized the Bush administration at every turn but blamed Congressional Democrats, too, for refusing to cut off money for the war.

HC DFA members traveling to Washington to take part in this demonstration included Chairman Jerry and Julie McKeen, Karen Bowers, Christine Spalla, Larry Hitt, Sally Egan, Kim and Anna Smucker, Gerri Newlon along with other friends and relatives from Harrison County.



Cindy Sheehan at the March.



Support HCDFA at the Shinnston City Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, August 4, 2007
Main Street, Shinnston

HCDFA will have a tent the annual Shinnston City Wide Yard Sale. Take this opportunity to clean out your basement, garage, and /or attic and donate them for resale to help support our group. Your trash may be someone else's treasure! Contact Jerry McKeen at jermckeen@aol.com or Lori Hostuttler at Lori.Hostuttler@gmail.com for more information about donating items or if you are willing to help out at the sale.

Gore Film Part of DFA Film Series

"An Inconvenient Truth", the award winning documentary film produced by Al Gore, was shown to the public without charge at 7:00pm on Wednesday April 11, 2007 at the Village Square Conference Center in Clarksburg.

This event was the second film presented to the public through the Harrison County "DFA 2007 Film Series." Realizing that there are a number of important films and documentaries released every year that never make it to the commercial cinema theaters in our area, the Harrison County DFA has initiated a special series of free film presentations throughout the year in the interest of making these films more available to local citizens. The first film in the series was "The War Tapes", shown last month at the Democratic Headquarters in Clarksburg. That film was a documentary completely filmed and narrated by three actual combat soldiers serving in Iraq. It was a realistic look at the life of our American troops as they faced the daily challenges of the war in Iraq.

"An Inconvenient Truth" presents the facts about climate change and global warming through showing a number of clips from the recent Al Gore world tour and lecture series. Narrated by Al Gore, the film presents the evidence in a clear and well-illustrated method with easily understood graphics and scientific explanations. The film is a must-see for anyone interested in preserving the amazing God-given environment that all of humanity enjoys today. Included in this warm and engaging look at how the world's climate continues to change, are recommendations for how we can conserve our precious energy resources and help to ensure the continued harmony of living with our surroundings long into the future.

The free showing on April 11 was sponsored by the Harrison County Democracy for America for those who may have missed seeing this important film earlier, or perhaps just wanted a closer look and an opportunity to discuss it with others.

INK, West Virginia's Alternative Newspaper, Coming Soon!

Chris Chapman of WV Democracy for America, John Rote, and Joshua Greene founders of West Virginia Independent Media recently announced the forthcoming publication of INK, an alternative newspaper and a companion website. The paper is slated to debut in January 2008. According to Chapman, "It will begin as a monthly publication with plans to go bi-weekly as we iron out the various problems. Ultimately, our goal is to be weekly. INK will feature in-depth investigative pieces, political commentary, regional features, and arts and entertainment."

The publishers are seeking subscribers to help pay for operating costs during the first year. Costs are \$50.00 for a two year subscription. More information will be available soon.

Inquiries and subscriptions can be made via WV Independent Media PO Box 455 Morgantown WV 26507



HCDFA “Veto Press Release” Statement Released Following the Bush Veto of War Budget Bill

President Bush’s veto of the Supplementary Budget Bill has unnecessarily postponed the expenditures needed by American troops overseas. Congress will no doubt follow up this situation by working out a “compromise” budget bill in order to get the needed funds to our military.

This sad state of affairs has come about due to the incompetence of this administration in handling the entire Iraq situation. From the very beginning, when the American people were misdirected into a war by an administration that had no real strategy other than getting rid of a dictator and protecting our oil interests in the area. This veto has shown the world that even in America, a country that is proud of its democracy and that relies upon its citizenry for its power and sovereignty, now has a government that is not responsive to the wishes of the people. The arrogance and incompetence of the Bush administration has once again given the world another reason to be suspect of the basic values and intentions of the United States of America.

Harrison County Democracy for America denounces the actions of this administration in regard to Iraq and continues to insist that the United States Congress use all of its power and constitutional authority to demand that the President, as Commander in Chief, set a reasonable time table for the withdrawal of American combat troops which would include the absolute insistence that the Iraqi government assume the management of the security of its own country and with American support, work out a diplomatic end to their own Civil War.

In addition, we commend our United States Congressman from the First District, Rep. Alan B. Mollohan for his efforts in this matter and for the following statement issued following President Bush’s veto of the Supplementary Appropriations Bill:

"Today, I voted to override the President's veto of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for the troops in Iraq that also contained language requiring the Iraqis to begin to take responsibility for solving their own civil war crisis. The bill would have provided more funding for our troops and military readiness than the president requested and reflects the will of the American people to wind down this war. This bill's timetable and benchmarks finally hold the Iraqis accountable.

As retired Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton has stated, ‘The real audience for the timeline language is Prime Minister al-Maliki and the elected government of Iraq.’

As then Governor George W. Bush said in 1999 regarding America's involvement in Kosovo, ‘I think it's also important for the President to lay out a timetable as to how long they will be involved and when they will be withdrawn.’

I will continue to stand for the principles contained in the legislation vetoed by President Bush: full funding for our troops; more money for veterans' health care; accountability by the Iraqi government; a responsible timetable for redeployment of US troops; and a strengthening of our military through a new strategic reserve readiness fund."

Both of our West Virginia Senators, Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller have also worked to bring home our combat troops who are serving in harms way in Iraq, in a war that was started by Mr. Bush and continues even now without any established reasonable goals that could signal success. Harrison County Democracy for America asks all Americans to contact their elected officials in Washington, D. C. in an effort to convince lawmakers to use all of their powers to find an honorable way to end our involvement in the disastrous war in Iraq.

This statement is a compilation of comments made at a HCDFA meeting following the President’s veto of the Supplementary Budget Bill voted on by Congress to set a timetable for the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq as a condition for funding the war as requested by the administration in addition to a statement made to HC DFA by Congressman Alan B. Mollohan.



"If impeachment is off the table, then democracy is off the table."

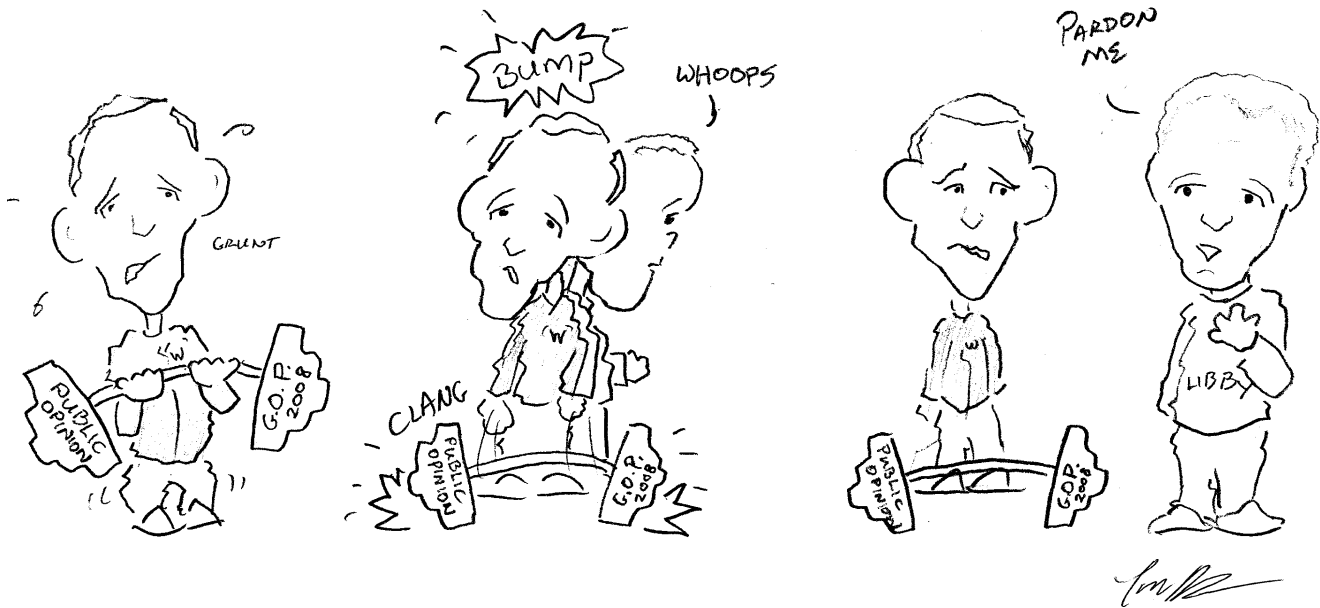
– overheard on the blogs



For a detailed discussion of impeachment, read the article on Bill Moyers website by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/07132007/profile.html>

Compass Cartoon



Clarksburg Rotary Club Honors Alan Mollohan at Gala

Based on its core ideals of Service Above Self, the Clarksburg Rotary Club honored Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV-1) for his contributions to the local community at its annual gala, which was held

Saturday, June 21 at Glen Elk Gardens.



“Congressman Mollohan has time and again given his time and services to our community,” said B.K. Van Horn, President of the Clarksburg Rotary. “Whether it has been working for our veterans or spurring economic diversity

through technology and downtown redevelopment or fighting for our senior citizens, Alan Mollohan has been a friend of Clarksburg and Harrison County.”

Following his introduction by Martin Shaffer, Congressman Mollohan spoke about the economic resurgence of North Central West Virginia, describing how the First District is united in economic goals although diverse in its many faceted

communities. He spoke of his recollections of the ever changing face of West Virginia and the on-going development of technology as an industry in our area.

Rotary is an organization of professional and business leaders with more than 1.2 million members in 165 countries. Locally, the Clarksburg Rotarians have been involved with a number of activities that help area youth, which include: soccer programs, building a library at the Kappa Sigma Pi Youth Home, Boys and Girls State, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Annual Rotary High School YMCA swim meet, and the annual Christmas party for the Children’s Treatment Center.

Representing the DFA at the Gala were Denise Binion, Betty Cottrill, Julie and Jerry McKeen as well as Mike Romano, Martin Shaffer, Dan Thompson, Steve Tilson. Some friends of DFA attending included Libby Stout, Fran and Jim Nutter, Jo Anne McNemar, Jean Sartoris, and Senator Joe Minard.

COMPASS Submissions Requested

Please help make our HCDFA newsletter responsive and engaging. Send details on upcoming events, summaries and photographs of activities, editorials, articles, or anything you wish to share with the group to Lori.Hostuttler@gmail.com. Also visit our excellent website, www.hcdfa.com for information on events as well as compelling and timely articles and commentaries on the state of our government.

We're All Gonna Die

By William Rivers Pitt
Friday 13 July 2007

We are all wired into a survival trip now.
- Hunter S. Thompson

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in May of 2002? Around about the middle of that month, details began to emerge about the August 6, 2001 Presidential Daily Briefing that specifically warned Bush about Osama bin Laden's determination to strike the United States.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because two days later, the Bush administration unleashed a blizzard of dire warnings about impending terrorist attacks. FBI Director Robert Mueller intoned such attacks were "inevitable," and the Department of Homeland Security announced the imminent, explosive destruction of all American railroads, along with the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in June of 2003? Over the course of two days, reports emerged about serious doubts held by the CIA regarding the credibility of the administration's claim Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger. On the heels of this, Congress unfurled its 9/11 report, which criticized all levels of the Bush administration for its performance before and during the attacks.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because the Bush administration unleashed another blizzard of warnings about impending terrorist attacks. Specifically, the Department of Homeland Security warned terrorists were, once again, preparing to attack the United States with suicide missions using commercial airliners as bombs.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in December of 2003? 9/11 Commission chairman Thomas Keane declared the attacks of 9/11 should have been prevented. The next day, a Federal appeals court ruled against the administration on the case of suspected terrorist Jose Padilla, stating Padilla could not be held indefinitely without being charged.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because the Bush administration increased the terrorism threat level to Orange and claimed more suicide planes were about to come zooming out of the sky. Six international flights were diverted due to potential terrorist actions of some passengers who were later identified as an insurance salesman, an elderly Chinese woman and a five-year-old boy.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in May of 2004? Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared on Meet the Press and stated

the intelligence on Iraqi WMD he'd been given for his UN presentation had been "inaccurate and wrong and, in some cases, deliberately misleading." Horrifying new pictures of the torture, rape and murder of prisoners by Americans at Abu Ghraib prison became public. The American military accidentally bombed a wedding party in Iraq, killing 40 civilians.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because FBI Director Mueller and Attorney General John Ashcroft announced they had reports from multiple sources of al Qaeda's "specific intention to hit the United States hard." The threat levels were not raised, but dire warnings of impending catastrophe were offered by the administration for the next several days.

The recipe is simple, like the directions on the back of a shampoo bottle. Damaging reports of Bush administration malfeasance emerge. Warnings of imminent terrorist-borne doom immediately follow, all spread far and wide by said Bush administration. Lather, rinse, repeat.

There are many more instances of this curious timing to be found, but apparently, no one in the administration is concerned this dubious pattern - spreading fear among the populace to change the subject, an act of terrorism itself - might start to wear thin.

Who is going to forget the incredible scandals of June and July of 2007? The Bush administration leaves Nixon in the dust by commuting the prison sentence of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. This action strongly suggests the existence of a quid pro quo between Libby and Bush's people to cover up the criminal activities of powerful officials like Vice President Dick Cheney, who had recently claimed his office wasn't part of the executive branch to avoid handing papers over to the National Archives.

The administration deploys spurious claims of Executive Privilege to avoid subpoenas regarding the patently illegal NSA wiretapping of American citizens. That privilege is extended to deny Congressional access to Harriet Miers, former White House counsel, regarding the issue of fired US attorneys. Contempt charges are threatened against Miers, and the NSA subpoena stonewall comes

closer to getting openly challenged in court. Alberto Gonzales is exposed as having lied to the Senate in his testimony about FBI abuses of the Patriot Act.



Die continued

Few of the benchmarks for success in Iraq are met. Desperate to halt a tide of GOP defections from his Iraq policy, Bush again coughs up the totally discredited link between 9/11 and Iraq, saying, "The same people that attacked us on September the 11th is a crowd that is now bombing people, killing innocent men, women and children." The House again votes to withdraw American troops from Iraq. A new Harris poll on Bush's approval rating is published. The number reads 26 percent.

Wait.

Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff all but guarantees devastating new terror attacks against the United States this summer. He bases this warning on a "gut feeling." White House spokesman Tony Snow threatens that withdrawal from Iraq would bring terrorism "to a shopping mall near you."

Meanwhile, al Qaeda is alleged to be as secure in Pakistan and Afghanistan as they were before 9/11, yet no one in the administration connects this new security to the drain of resources happening in Iraq. Additionally, no one in the administration points out the fact that, if Chertoff's gut is indeed correct, and we are indeed attacked again, responsibility for that attack will fall upon those who manufactured war in Iraq. Never mind the fact that if an attack is allowed to happen, even a minor one, more of our constitutional rights and protections will be eviscerated by the very same people who failed to stop it again.

Will everyone forget about the scandals of June and July 2007 amid these deadly warnings of coming death?

Lather, rinse, repeat.

[William Rivers Pitt](#) is a New York Times and internationally bestselling author of two books: "[War on Iraq: What Team Bush Doesn't Want You to Know](#)" and "[The Greatest Seditious Silence](#)." His newest book, "[House of Ill Repute: Reflections on War, Lies, and America's Ravaged Reputation](#)," is now available from PoliPointPress.



The DFA table at the Regional Jefferson-Jackson Dinner.

Harrison County Democracy for America

PO Box 964
Clarksburg WV 26301

OFFICERS

*Chairman, Jerry McKeen
Vice Chairman, Denise Binion
Secretary, Sally Egan
Treasurer, Julie McKeen*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*Membership, Betty Cottrill
Ways & Means, Justine Marino/Julie Rea
Web page, Denise Binion
Welcoming, Diane Kincaid
Young Democrats, Nathan Drain*

Compass Newsletter Editor, Lori Hostuttler

**Please email submissions, responses,
and comments to:**

Lori.Hostuttler@gmail.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 1, 2007

September 5, 2007

First Wednesday of each month

Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Preceded by Dinner @ 5:00 p.m.

*Village Square Conference Center
and Elks Club Restaurant*

FUNDRAISERS:

Glen Elk Festival Bake Sale

Saturday, July 21, 2007

Shinnston City Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, August 4, 2007

www.hcdfa.com

HCDFA Sponsors Clarksburg City Council Forum

Harrison County Democracy for America sponsored a "Town Hall Meeting" style Candidate Forum for all of the candidates running for the Clarksburg City Council on May 23, 2007 at the Village Square Conference Center. All Clarksburg and surrounding area residents were encouraged to attend this Forum as a means of learning the ideas and plans being offered by all of the candidates.

Ron Fragale, Speaker Pro-Tem of the WV House of Delegates served as moderator for this event. Fragale introduced each of the candidates present and conducted the debate by directing the questions from the audience to each of them. The Forum began with a brief self-introduction by each of the candidates followed by questions from the audience. Questions were directed to candidates in turn by the moderator, Ron Fragale. Following a two minute answer from one of the candidates, up to three other candidates who indicated a desire to speak on that topic were given the opportunity to offer their rebuttal. The moderator also had a few questions prepared by the sponsors of the debate that he used when there seemed to be a lack of audience initiated questions.

According to Jerry McKeen, Chairman of Harrison County DFA, each of the eleven candidates running for the three open seats on the Clarksburg City Council were invited to participate in this event. The candidates included Margaret Bailey, Robert Barberio, Bill (Hippie) Booher, John M. Elbert, Terry Joseph Greaver, Russell Mazzie, Jo Anne McNemar, J.W. "Jim" Price, Martin Shaffer, Charles O. "Charlie" Thayer III, and Dan Thompson.

HCDFA has been responsible for similar candidate forums prior to the Primary and General Elections of 2006. By holding forums such as this, the Harrison County DFA hopes to further its goal of keeping lines of communication open between elected officials and their constituents.



Del. Ron Fragale and Clarksburg City Council Candidates



Visit the HCDFA Bake Sale at the Glen Elk Wine Arts and Music Festival

**Saturday, July 21, 2007
9:00 a.m. to ?
Glen Elk Section of Clarksburg**

We will be selling baked goods including biscotti, pepperoni rolls, cupcakes, and featuring 'Democratic Fortune Cookies.'

Come out and enjoy this unique festival and support HCDFA. Contact Jerry McKeen at jermckeen@aol.com for more information.

Harrison County Democracy for America - PO Box 964 - Clarksburg WV 26301

**PRSRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 181
GRAFTON, WV**