

Oak Park/Huntington Woods/Royal Oak Township
Democratic Club Meeting
September 30th 7pm est.
Zoom Meeting

Called to order 7 p.m.
Mary Ann Fontana - Club Chair

First Speaker

Lori Evans

- Chairperson for DPDOC (Democratic Precinct Delegates of Oakland County)
- Special recognition for precinct delegates of Oakland County
- DPDOC is presenting customized lanyards with ID cards for delegates to use while canvassing or working Dem events.
- Recognition of each precinct delegate and their efforts. Each named in name recognition. Lanyards will be provided.

Wanda Anderson introduced our guest speaker: Field organizer for the Fanny Lou Hamer organization, Dr. Yvette Maklevoy-Anderson

Topic: Fanny Lou Hamer/Voter suppression

“We never forget where we came from” Fanny Lou Hamer

Who was Fanny Lou Hamer?

- Amazing American voting and women’s rights activist and community organizer
- Political powerhouse in Voting rights movement
- -Born October 6th 1917
- -Candidate for congress Mississippi
- -Student Non-Violent Coordination Committee organizer
- -Co-Founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- She was working to get people to register to vote in 1964.
- She helped the Black Mississippians fight suppression of the Black vote.
- She testified at the Democratic National Convention to ensure Black voices be heard.
- She was beaten badly and arrested in South Carolina for sitting in a whites only section of the bus station.
- She was jailed, she and other Black women were also arrested. When they were in the Winona County Jail, they were brutally beaten, resulting in life-long injuries for Fanny Lou. Blood clot to her eye, kidney damage, and a very badly damaged leg.
- All of her efforts have been toward voting, voting access, ensuring that Black people had the opportunity to participate, and we continue to have some of those same challenges today.
- We want to continue to do the work and advocate on her behalf.
- Unfortunately, she died at a young age from breast cancer.
- What we see today in terms of voter suppression and these new bills that are being pushed are the exact things Fanny Lou Hamer was fighting against.

- The suppression that was being imposed upon our community in the 1960s, is ever present today.
- She was able to purchase 640 acres of land and launch a boutique, a sewing enterprise, and use that as an economic launching board in order to perpetuate Black people having equal opportunities and financial stability.
- She traveled and took fundraising to a whole new level.
- Our political action committee is working hard to work toward the ideals that she stood for.

Fanny Lou Hamer Political Action Committee

- Founded by the Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony
- Dr. Yvette Maklevoy Anderson is the first female field director that was appointed to the position in the history of the organization. Founded in 1991
- Looking for increased participation.

Our Advocacy

- Voting rights
- -Redistricting-Proposal 2
- -Same-day voter registration- Proposal 3
- -No-reason absentee voting - Proposal 3
- -Speaking out against voter suppression

What are we going to do? What is it going to take?

What are we going to do to ensure we get that same voter turnout we had in the last election?

We look at the petition drive that was just approved by the board of canvassers.

We have taken the position of decline to sign.

The Senator and the Share Croppers - Fanny Lou Hamer

We need to Invite young people to the table!!!

Mary Ann Fontana:

Go to our website to sign up to volunteer to help to Decline to Sign

Moving on. Thank you so much, Yvette.

Senator Jeremy Moss

Speaking on the issues and bills introduced.

Bill banning pay by signature

Today 39 bills are introduced to suppress votes. Both House Republicans and Senate Republicans perpetuate the big lie, which the Governor will veto. They have no idea what votes they are trying to suppress and are getting nervous they might be suppressing their own votes. Posted speech on Senator Moss' Facebook page talking about this issue.

Former State Senator and current conspiracy theorist Patrick Colbeck claimed that he saw all of these voting tabulation machines hooked up to the Internet so that China could hack in and change the election results for Joe Biden.

Bill passed so that polling machines cannot be hooked up to the internet.

Polling machines already cannot be hooked up to the internet.

Premise is perpetuating the big lie, that there is a gap in the law that criminal activity is penetrating our election and we need to clean it up. We are promoting that our elections are secure.

Precinct Delegate Committee

Co-Chair Glenda Steinbeck

Canvassing efforts starting in July. Our canvassing continues as long as weather permits.

Knocked on 600 doors. Spoke with at least 100 people. Collected over 600 signatures to re-elect Governor Whitmer. Please sign up to help. Participation is low. Go to our website and click on Take Action tab. We have club T-Shirts now. Going as a club to help with Forgotten Harvest on Wednesdays at least once a month.

Lori Lisi Co-chair

Grandchild born

Congratulations

Oak Park election November 2nd for mayor.

Request absentee ballot if you have not received one.

Follow the redistricting meetings.

Website www.Michigan.gov/micrc click to see the maps. Follow links and make comments on maps. Dave Coulter put out a news release about it.

Sign up to get notices on Secretary of State website.

Please show up to the meetings if you can.

Oak Park City Councilman Shaun Whitehead

Oak Park Film Festival Oct 8th-10th

Dog and Pony show

Shepard Park/The Community Center/Sherman Pocket Park

Absentee Ballots did go out this week.

Vote for the Mayor and vote for Councilman Shaun Whitehead

Mayor candidates are Marian McClellan and Crystal Bailey

Mayor Marian Mcclellan

- Oak Park Magazine came out.
- New communications director.
- Water tower district is open.
- Two new restaurants are open.
- Waiting to get the rest of the five restaurants open.
- In the process of developing a dog park; approx. time frame est. 1 year and a half.
- Award for Oak Park beautification including the sign over the expressway.
- Two issues on the ballot. They are renewals.
- Two candidates for mayor.
- Two city council seat votes unopposed.
- Our taxes are down 10%.
- Oak Park Trailhead is open on 9 Mile.
- 9 Mile showpiece.
- More business and more traffic.
- Cracking down on code violations to keep safe and appealing.
- Covid epidemic started in Oak Park.
- Memorial is going to be set up. We need recommendations for what residents would like the memorial to be.
- Section in the magazine about help paying your utility bills. Refer to Oak Park Magazine.

Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles

Three things to highlight

1. Board of Commissioners budget was approved.
2. Covid is still around. Vaccination and testing is our hub.
3. Parks have been approved for free passes.

How to stay in the loop? Follow Board of Commissioners on YouTube. All the commissioners have webpages/

Commissioner Charlie Cavell

- Included in budget conviction integrity unit being funded.
- Add a social worker embedded in community to aid the Sheriff's department.
- Boosted rainy day fund by millions of dollars.
- Oakland County giving out booster shots and flu shots.
- Arpa funds for Oakland County.
- Expand housing transformative investments.
- Getting homeless sheltered.
- Rent and mortgage relief.
- Rapid response test possibility?
- Tom Hartman FEMA reimbursement to buy rapid response tests.
- 10 million dollars worth of rapid tests.
- Can we have those available?
- Emergent variants.
- State funds get the test to the schools.

- You can get flu shots at www.Oaklandcounty.com or vaccinations.
- 800-848-5533 nurses on call

Oak Park tree trimming

Call DTE

File complaint if you are unhappy.

Trees need to be trimmed and the power lines need to be buried.

Meeting ended.