



Manatee Matters

April 2022 Newsletter

*Check our website for
event updates, current issues, how
to get involved and
how to donate.*

Visit our website

Manatee Gets Some Benefit From Legislative Session

By Nancy Hughes – Essentially, the 2022 session of the Florida legislature was a time for red meat issues designed to stoke the GOP base and keep Democrats playing whack-a-mole, pushing back on a slew of outrageous bills.



Closer to home, there were some bills that could have positive benefit for Manatee County residents. For example, HB 105 restores the right of local governments to ban smoking (except for cigars) at public beaches and parks. HB 235 prohibits the use of restraints on students with disabilities in public schools. HB 817 allows emergency medical care to a minor without parental consent.

The appropriations bill includes \$3.3 million to pay for outstanding invoices related to the 2021 Piney Point environmental disaster. That is in addition to \$100 million appropriated last year to clean the site.

Thanks to billions of dollars handed to Florida by the Democratic-led Congress, the state legislature passed a record spending plan that includes among other things:

- \$21.5 million to help with expansion at Sarasota Bradenton International Airport
- \$23 million to help purchase Rattlesnake Key in Manatee County
- \$3 million for a building at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
- \$3 million for underground power lines in Bradenton Beach
- \$2 million for flood mitigation on Holmes Beach
- \$500,000 for the Legacy Trail extension in northern Sarasota County
- A change in the state funding formula for child welfare services that will grant the Safe Children Coalition in Bradenton its full requested funding for the first time in nearly a decade

[Story continued here](#)

Speakers Announced for Manatee Dems' Gala

By Patti Shannon and William Clapper- Three of the Democratic candidates for Governor – Charlie Crist, Nikki Fried and Annette Taddeo – are scheduled to appear at the Manatee County Democratic Party Gala, April 24, in Lakewood Ranch.

Additionally, Rep. Val Demings will use video to address the more than 300 expected guests at the Gala. Demings is the Democratic candidate for the U.S.

2022 & YOU

Manatee County Democratic Party

ANNUAL GALA IS

Live

April 24th at 5PM

Grove Ballroom
10670 Boardwalk Loop
Main St. Lakewood Ranch

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www.manateecountydemocrats.com

Senate seat now held by Sen. Marco Rubio. She will be introduced on the video by Democratic Senator Cory Booker.

The three Florida gubernatorial candidates will participate in a moderated panel discussion.

Tickets are selling fast for this dinner Gala, Manatee County Democratic Party's premier fundraising event, held this year at GROVE in Lakewood Ranch on Sunday, April 24, starting at 5 p.m. Click [here](#) to buy tickets. Funds raised during the Gala allow the Manatee Dems to expand voter outreach programs, recruit and assist candidates, and increase the Democratic presence in Manatee County.

An expansive selection of live and silent auction items has been donated and there is still time to donate items such as art, jewelry books, hotel stays and gift certificates for goods and services. These items will be available online for viewing the week before the Gala and donors' names will appear there as well.

[Story continued here](#)

Young Dems Condemn Anti-Semitic Literature

The Manasota Young Democrats condemn the spread of anti-Semitic literature in the City of Sarasota and stand with the Jewish Community in solidarity.

"Hate has no home here on the Suncoast," Manasota Young Democrats President Peter Imhoff said. "Florida has seen a dramatic increase in anti-Semitic events including several in Sarasota. We call upon our local elected officials to stand united and condemn these incidents and disavow those involved in and supporting such activities."

Last month, the American Jewish Congress reported fliers stating that the war in Ukraine was a Jewish plot appeared in a Sarasota neighborhood. In February, two Sarasota neighborhoods were littered with fliers that blamed Jews for COVID-19.

"We are better than this," Imhoff stated, "No matter your political affiliation, anti-Semitism can never be given safe harbor."

(Peter Imhoff is president of the Manasota Young Democrats, the official chartered chapter of the Florida Young Democrats representing Manatee and Sarasota Counties.)

**Stand
Against
Hate**

You Are Invited to Manatee Dem Headquarters



By Patti Shannon - Manatee Dems say, "Come on in!" Office hours are weekdays noon to 4 p.m. at the Manatee County Democratic Party headquarters located in the Orange Blossom Shopping Center at 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton.

You will find volunteers helping in many ways – assisting with data entry, making phone calls to encourage people to register to vote and vote by mail (phone banking) and training. They are a friendly

bunch who gladly greet visitors who have questions

about voting, registering to vote, or who want to learn about the wide variety of ways to lend their time and talents to support Democratic ideals.

Volunteer Coordinator Chair Bev Pannee said, "We are looking for a few more office volunteers who are comfortable working on computers and making phone calls. It's a great way to meet people and learn about the Democratic Party and elections in Manatee."

Another volunteer, Barb Stubbers, provides phone bank training in the office most Mondays 2 to 4 p.m. She has a reputation as a great coach, making it easy and fun. If you are new to phone banking or want a refresher, contact the office at 941-301-4336 during office hours or email ManateeDemOffice@gmail.com.

Anyone who would like to phone bank using the Manatee Dem office phones is welcome to come on weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. Use an office laptop to connect to the virtual phone bank or bring your own device.

For groups wanting to schedule in-person meetings outside of regular office hours, contact ManateeDemOffice@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Club and Caucus Co-Presentation

Truth in Science About Deep-Water Injection Wells

By Barbara Ehren and Cyndy Rosso— The deep-water injection well slated for Piney Point concerns many Manatee residents. As coastal Floridians, we are especially concerned with the quality of our water. The Piney Point situation has been unsettling to say the least, and we want to feel confident that the solution underway is a sound one.



On April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Anna Maria Island/West Manatee Democratic Club and the Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus are co-sponsoring a webinar on Zoom to explore the science of deep-water disposal wells with speaker Jesse Ehren, an expert in water disposal.

Mr. Ehren is currently Director of Water Treatment for Bosque Disposal Systems, Fort Worth, TX. He is a native Floridian with a master's degree in planning from FSU, focusing on natural resource management.

Our focus is not on the politics of this issue for this webinar. It is about **science**. All are welcome. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link for the Webinar.

(Barbara Ehren is president of the Anna Maria Island and West Manatee Democratic Club and Cyndy Rosso is co-chair of the Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus.)

Opinion

Not Banned on AMI and in West Manatee



By Barbara Ehren - The advocates of free speech on Anna Maria Island and in West Manatee who belong to the AMI/WM Democratic Club are taking a stand on censorship of reading material. We are celebrating banned books by putting them in the hands of our members. At our meetings we hold a raffle to win one of those dangerous pieces of literature! We also encourage our

members and friends to read freely from the lists of banned books circulating on the Internet.

To our knowledge, neither the Manatee School Board nor the Manatee Libraries have banned books. However, we will carefully track the impact of CS/HB 1467 should the governor sign it, which, among other provisions, requires school boards to "Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on factors specified in the bill, including those removed because of an objection by a parent or resident of the county."

How did we ever get to the point in this country of banning books? This prohibition is a direct assault on our democracy. We feel strongly that free speech should not be just a Democratic value; it should be a democratic value! When you read a banned book, you run the risk of walking in another's shoes, expanding your perspectives, and honoring life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. AMI/WW Dems are all for that!!!

(Barbara Ehren is president of the Anna Maria Island and West Manatee Democratic Club.)

Bring Voter Registration to Neighbors and Friends

Bring important voter registration and Vote By Mail information to voters' doors when you join other Democrats during weekly Door-To-Door canvassing efforts every Friday and Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

After covering neighborhoods, join other like-minded Democrats for a pizza party at Democratic headquarters in the Orange Blossom Shopping Center at 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton. Team with a friend or let us know if you would like a walking partner.

Never talked to voters before? We give you training and pair you with an experienced canvasser. We use COVID-safe practices when engaging voters.

Stop by Democratic headquarters for your materials, walk lists and instructions. We send teams to nearby neighborhoods. Click [here](#) to sign up.



Blue Wave Voter Outreach April 23



By Phyllis Myers - Manatee County's Blue Wave Coalition's monthly voter outreach event is Saturday, April 23 at 3 p.m. with drinks and snacks provided.

Meet at the Democratic headquarters in Orange Blossom Shopping Center, 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton.

We face the most crucial mid-term election of our lifetime. If Republicans gain control of Congress, our democracy and the will of the voters will be threatened.

Join us in going to low voter turnout precincts to obtain voter registrations and enroll voters in Vote by Mail (VBM.) A voter enrolled in VBM is two times more likely to vote than one who is not enrolled.

Training materials will be provided before the event and new volunteers will partner with someone who has visited neighborhoods. Spanish-speakers are needed for Hispanic blocks.

You will go in teams of two to selected Democratic blocks. Once you have completed your assigned blocks, return to headquarters to socialize with other participants. Wine, beer and snacks will be available. [Sign up here](#). Contact BlueWaveManatee@gmail.com with questions.

(Phyllis Myers is co-leader of Manatee County's Blue Wave Coalition and Indivisible Manatee.)

CORRECTION: In the March 2022 story "Professor Calls Out CRT Foes, Book Banners" the professional

How To Get Involved



Meet like-minded people
at fun events!

[Click for Events
List](#)



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a 100% **volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated; \$22/month goes a long way to help elect Democrats in the 2022 elections.

[Donate Now](#)

Resource Links

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of Commissioners](#)

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Us](#)

