

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2011

Dede Smith will announce her candidacy for the Democratic nomination to City Council on Monday, June 13 at 12:15 pm at Forest Hills Park. Please meet under the large white oak at the corner of Forest Hills Ave and Forest Hills Rd.

Dede has lived in the Fry's Spring neighborhood of Charlottesville for more than 30 years and has been involved in many civic, educational, and environmental issues. Please see Dede's bio below.

She believes that

"Our quality of life here in Charlottesville is unique and precious, and that we can have it all, a deep enriching history, stunning landscape, a vibrant urban culture, and opportunities for all of our citizens. But if we are going to preserve this quality of life, and make it even better for all residents, we need strong, creative leadership. Charlottesville has 20th century problems that require 21st century ideas and solutions. I believe that by finding innovative solutions we can ensure an even higher quality of life for future generations."

Please join Dede and supporters on Monday for a brief press conference followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Stay for a picnic lunch if you can.

Contact:

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Biography: Deirdre "Dede" Smith

Dede moved to Charlottesville with her husband Tim Wilson in 1979. Their two children, born in Charlottesville, attended Jackson-Via, Walker, Buford, and Charlottesville High Schools. Dede has been active in civic affairs for decades, with a particular interest in environmental and educational issues.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITIONS :

1992 - named one of the **Charlottesville 100** for "doing the right stuff for Charlottesville."

2003 - chosen for **Distinguished Dozen Award** for public service to the community.

Before Charlottesville

- Born in Springfield Vermont; October 1, 1955
- Raised in Birmingham, Michigan; 1959-1972
- Attended University of Michigan; 1972-1978
BS in Microbiology / Immunology
- Research in Transplantation and Immunogenetics 1975-1979; University of Michigan and Max-Planck Institute of Biology, Tubingen, Germany.

Charlottesville Years: Family, Employment and Significant Accomplishments: 1979-2010

- Married to Tim Wilson, Professor of Psychology, University of Virginia
- Children: Chris Wilson, 28 (associate editor at Slate.com) and Leigh Wilson, 23 (Americorps, Brooklyn, NY)
- Resident of the historic Fry's Spring neighborhood 31 years
- Research in Immunology and Infectious Disease; University of VA Medical Center: 1979-1987
- Director of the Ivy Creek Foundation; 1993-2007
 - Construction of the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area as a model of sustainable construction
 - Creation of the Ragged Mountain Natural Area
 - Designation of the Ivy Creek Natural Area as an African American Heritage Site
 - Restoration of the fescue hayfields to historic warm season native grasses
- Charlottesville School Board: 2000-2006: Chair 2004-2005
- Co-founder of Rivanna chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists 2006
- Co-founder of the Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan 2007
- Neighborhood Leadership Institute 2010

Boards and Volunteer Efforts

- PTO President / classroom volunteer / school advocate, Jackson-Via Elementary: 1989-1998
 - Focus on curriculum based art and writing enrichment and nature studies
 - Construction of a network of nature trails and amphitheater at Jackson-Via Elementary
 - PTO Central Council
 - Charlottesville "100" Volunteer Award for service to Jackson-Via
- Boards and Projects, past and present
 - Rivanna Trails Foundation
 - [Rivanna Master Naturalists](#)
 - [Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan](#)
 - Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
 - [Amazing Trees of Charlottesville](#)
 - Blue Ridge Discovery Center
 - Backyard Revolution
 - [Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
 - Central Virginia History Group: African-American History of Central Virginia
- Linked sites were developed by Dede for those projects