

WAMU 88.5 American University Radio
Quarterly Issues-Programs Report
January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023

Overview

WAMU 88.5 American University Radio is Washington D.C.'s NPR station serving the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and Suburban Maryland. The listening area comprises a population of six million people. The station has consistently ranked among the country's top public radio stations in audience share and size. Nielsen ratings put WAMU at the top of radio stations that serve the Washington D.C. region. The station supports diverse, equitable, and relevant award-winning programming and puts us among the most respected and trusted voices in the world of traditional and emerging media.

Issues of importance addressed by locally produced programs.

The 1A Program

1A is a show about a changing America. Every weekday, host Jenn White convenes a conversation about the most prominent issues of our time. The show takes a deep and unflinching look at America, bringing context and insight to stories unfolding across the country and the world. Issues of local importance are inherent in the discussions because the nation's capital is the heart of our listening area.

With a name inspired by the First Amendment, 1A explores prominent issues such as policy, politics, technology, and what connects us across the fissures that divide the country. The program also delves into pop culture, sports, and humor. The goal of 1A is to function as a national mirror, taking time to help America look at itself and to ask what it wants to be.

The 1A Program features "News Roundup - Domestic and International" every Friday spanning two hours. Guests include subject matter experts in news gathering, politics, economics, and international relations.

The 1A program is produced by WAMU and distributed by NPR to over 445 public radio stations throughout the United States. During this reporting period, there were 156 editions of the program totaling over 6000 hours. Programming became more varied and less dominated by a few topics such as in prior periods. Nevertheless, there were four issues of importance that accounted for a substantial amount of programming time. They are detailed below with examples of the programs that addressed those issues.

Health Care Trends

January 3: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: COVID is changing how our brains tell time. The answer is complicated. Emotions, stress, and trauma can all impact internal clocks. And the more memories our brains create, the longer a period of time it can seem. That's why we hear reports of time slowing down in near-death experiences. And it's why we feel like the years go by quicker as we age. When we experience periods of upheaval in our lives, like a global pandemic, our relationship with time can change drastically. The ways that COVID has impacted our perception of time is the focus of Ruth Ogden's latest research. Join Host Jen White in discussion of processing time, changing life plans, with her guests **Ruth Ogden** ~ associate professor of psychology at Liverpool **John Moores** University; **Dr. Pooja Lakshmin** ~ psychiatrist, author of "Real Self-Care: A Transformative Program for Redefining Wellness" and **Rainesford Stauffer** ~ journalist; author of "An Ordinary Age: Finding Your Way in a World That Expects Exceptional."

January 4: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Why are women's health concerns dismissed so often? From chronic pain to emergency room visits, women's medical concerns are often dismissed at higher rates than those of men.

A study shows that middle-aged women with chest pain were twice as likely to be diagnosed with a mental illness than their male counterparts. Another study found that women and people of color who visited emergency rooms with chest pain waited longer to be seen by a doctor. America's gynecological practice has been traced back to slavery. Today, gender and racial bias still affect the way people are diagnosed and receive care. Join Host Jenn White and guest to discuss why this still happens and what can be done about it. Guests are **Dr. Raegan McDonald-Mosley** practicing

OB/GYN; CEO of Power to Decide; **Anushay Hossain** author, “The Pain Gap: How Sexism and Racism in Healthcare Kill Women; and **Deirdre Cooper Owens** professor in the history of medicine, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; author, “Medical Bondage”

March 14: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Using diabetes medication to treat conditions other than diabetes. Most people don’t take medication for the side effects. But some Americans are turning to a group of diabetes medications for something other than relief from the disease. Drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy are making headlines for their ability to stimulate weight loss. This is a problem for diabetes patients who need the medication and can’t get it. A rise in demand for these medications has led to shortages. Companies are taking note of this demand. Last week, Weight Watchers announced it will acquire a telehealth operator called Sequence that can prescribe these medications. Should potentially life-saving medication be available to those whose lives aren’t at risk? Host Jenn White as she and her guests get at the heart of these questions. **Dr. Disha Narang:** endocrinologist; obesity medicine specialist with emphasis in diabetes, Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest hospital; **Dr. Caroline Apovian:** co-director, the Center for Weight Management and Wellness, Brigham, and Women's Hospital; and **Samhita Mukhopadhyay:** writer; former executive editor, Teen Vogue.

March 28: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The government’s plan to fix a broken organ transplant system? Break it up. For nearly 40 years, the United Network for Sharing Organs (UNOS) has controlled the organ transplant system. Last week, the government announced plans to completely overhaul the system by breaking up the network’s multi-decade monopoly. For those who need an organ transplant, the process is far from easy. On average, 17 people die each day awaiting transplants. More than 100,000 people are currently on the transplant waiting list according to the Health Resources and Services Administration. UNOS has been criticized for exacerbating the organ shortage. Host Jenn White is joined by Lenny Bernstein: health and medicine reporter, The Washington Post; Dr. Seth Karp: director, Vanderbilt Transplant Center; former board member, The United Network for Sharing Organs; and Jennifer Erickson: senior fellow, Federation of American Scientists

Education in America

February 6: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Remaking America: Recovery high schools present an alternative for teens facing addiction. Overdose deaths among teens doubled in the first year of the pandemic, according to data from UCLA. Schools have spent decades trying to prevent teens from using drugs and alcohol. The Office of National Drug Control Policy spent \$2.9 billion on drug prevention last year alone. Monitoring the Future Survey found 32 percent of 12th graders reported using an illicit substance in the past year. That’s virtually unchanged from the survey’s findings 30 years ago. As part of our “Remaking America” collaboration, we highlight reporting from partner station KUNC on kids facing mental health and substance abuse issues. One possible solution is recovery high schools. There are at least 45 recovery schools across the U.S. dedicated to students with addiction problems. Join host Jenn White and guest **Savannah:** junior, 5280 High School; **Stephanie Daniel:** senior managing editor and reporter, KUNC; host, The Colorado Dream podcast; **John Kelly:** professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; director, Massachusetts General Hospital's Recovery Research Institute; **Melissa Mouton:** founder and executive director, 5280 High School; and **Siddharth Nareddy:** youth advisor, Boulder County Public Health’s Community Substance Abuse Prevention Department; junior, Peak to Peak High School to discuss the unique challenges young people face when seeking treatment, and how schools can do a better job of supporting them.

February 21: 10:00 a.m. 35 minutes: Know It All: ChatGPT in the classroom. The ChatGPT is incredibly popular online, boasting more than 100 million monthly active users within just two months of its launch last November. The program is powered by a language model that is programmed to produce human dialogue. Users can feed it a prompt, and ChatGPT will predict how it should respond. This makes teachers nervous. Concerns about plagiarism among teachers have motivated the Los Angeles Unified School District and New York City Public Schools to ban its use. Educators are concerned the application will fundamentally change how writing is taught and will impact students’ abilities to craft ideas on their own. Daniel Herman is a teacher at Maybeck High School in the Bay Area. He detailed his concerns in an essay in *The Atlantic*. Other teachers are getting creative with the technology. Kelly Gibson, an English teacher in rural Oregon, is having her students analyze essays written by ChatGPT and find ways that they can be improved. Host Jenn White and a panel of guests discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on our schools. ***This is part of our series Know It***

All: 1A and WIRED's Guide to A.I. Today's guest are: **Pia Ceres:** Senior Digital Producer at Wired; **Lalitha Vasudevan:** Professor of Technology and Education at Columbia University's Teachers College; **Daniel Herman:** Teacher at Maybeck High School.

March 22: 11:20 a.m. 35 minutes: Colleges and universities are betting big on sports gambling. The NCAA College Basketball tournament kicks off Tuesday. Millions of Americans are expected to watch the games and bet on them. According to a new survey from the American Gaming Association, 68 million Americans are expected to place over \$15 billion in bets on the tournament this year. As sports gambling becomes increasingly popular on mobile platforms, colleges and universities are getting in on the action through multi-million dollar partnerships that allow companies to advertise on campuses. Investigations from *The New York Times* and the *PBS Newshour* found at least five major colleges (Michigan State, LSU, Maryland, University of Denver, and the University of Colorado) have partnered with companies like Caesar's Sports Book and PointsBet. These partnerships concern Graduate student Saul Maleks. He found himself tens of thousands of dollars in debt after two years of betting on sports that started his sophomore year of college. Host Jenn White speaks with journalists at *The New York Times* and the *PBS Newshour* about their investigations as well as a representative from the American Gaming Association about what responsible gambling practices look like. Guests: **Saul Malek:** Motivational Speaker, former gambling addict; **Paul Solman:** Business and Economics Correspondent for the PBS Newshour; **Dr. Timothy Fong** program co-director, UCLA Gambling Studies Program; clinical professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA; **Cait DeBaun:** Vice President of Strategic Communications & Responsibility for the American Gaming Association; **Alexandra Tremayne-Pengelly:** graduate, Columbia University School of Journalism; freelancer, New York Times; reporter, the Observer; and **Elizabeth Sander:** graduate, Columbia University School of Journalism; freelancer, New York Times; reporting fellow, the San Antonio Express News

Environmental Happenings

January 2: 10:20 a.m. 34 minutes: The importance of the latest global biodiversity pledge. It's 2023 and we're still trying to solve the climate crisis. At December's United Nations Biodiversity Summit, 190 countries came up with an ambitious agreement to protect some of the most important biodiversity around the world. There's a lot left to do to protect our planet's crucial ecosystems. Host Jenn White and her guests dig into what's included in this global framework, and what really counts as conservation anyway. Guests: **Masha Kalinina:** Senior Officer for International Conservation, Pew Charitable Trusts; **Angelo Villagomez:** Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; and **Benji Jones:** Senior Environmental Reporter, Vox

January 11: 11:20 a.m. 34 minutes: Listener Picks: The electric grid and climate change. As the country becomes increasingly dependent on electricity – from heating our homes to powering our cars – power utilities are moving away from coal and natural gas power plants and embracing renewable energy sources like hydro, wind, and solar. But it's a slow turnaround. In the meantime, the nation's aging electric infrastructure isn't equipped to meet this new demand or withstand the effects of severe weather. As floods, droughts, freezes, and heatwaves become more prevalent in the face of climate change, they're adding further stress to the already-fragile power grid. What does the power grid of the future look like? Host Jenn White talks with a panel of experts, **Amy Harder:** executive editor of CIPHER, a publication covering clean-energy technologies; **Gretchen Bakke, PhD:** cultural anthropologist, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, author of "The Grid: The Fraying Wires Between Americans and Our Energy Future"; and **Romany Webb:** Associate Research Scholar at Columbia University's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law

February 9: 11:06 a.m. 47 minutes: The dos and don'ts of amateur fossil hunting. Fossil hunting has been popular for ages. Maybe you've stumbled upon ancient remains yourself, whether on a walk on the beach or on a guided fossil-hunting tour. And amateur fossil hunters contribute to scientific discoveries all the time. Back in the gold rush in the 19th century, countless fossils and mummified prehistoric remains were discovered in Alaska. And a more recent "bone rush" speaks to how fossil hunting continues to be commercialized, something scientists worry about. So how can you collect fossils while still being sensitive to the environment around you? Host Jenn White and special guests discuss what to do and not do. Guests: **Steve Brusatte:** paleontologist and author, "The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: The Untold Story of a Lost World"; and **Riley Black:** science writer, author of "The Last Days of the Dinosaurs"

March 20: 11:20 a.m. 34 minutes: The ethics of space exploration. “Space ... the final frontier. “There’s something to that opening line from “Star Trek.” It imagines space as a vast opportunity for exploration and expansion for humanity. But students of history know that us Earthlings don’t have the best track record when it comes to colonizing and settling new territories. With humans looking to establish colonies on the moon and other planets, how do we not repeat the past? How do we leave our earthly problems behind and create space settlements more in line with the utopian vision of “Star Trek” ... rather than the despotic take in “Star Wars?” Host Jenn White and Astrophysicist Erika Nesvold discuss space exploration. Erika is the author of the new book “Off-Earth: Ethical Questions and Quandaries for Living in Outer Space.”

March 30: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Where does nuclear energy fit in a carbon-free future? Almost 60 percent of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels. When you include the gas-powered cars most of us drive and the gas appliances in our homes, that’s a lot of carbon emissions. And those carbon emissions are making our planet less livable for everyone. Experts have repeatedly said that the world must stop burning fossil fuels if we want to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis. The latest United Nations climate report reminded us just how soon that needs to happen. The U.S. should cut two-thirds of fossil fuels in the next decade. When it comes to carbon-free energy, many people think of renewables like solar or wind. But there’s also the nuclear option. Nuclear currently accounts for 20 percent of our electricity production, according to the Energy Information Administration. But whether it fits into a carbon-free future is up for debate. How safe is the nuclear power we already have? And what role should it play in the energy transition? Host Jenn White is joined by **Samantha Gross**: Director, Brookings Energy Security and Climate Initiative; **Joe Dominguez**: CEO, Constellation Energy; and **Edwin Lyman**: Director of Nuclear Power Safety at the Union of Concerned Scientists they discuss these questions

Government

January 19: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The U.S. government reached its debt limit Now What? Today, the government is scheduled to reach its debt limit. It’s a cap on borrowing that, if breached, could send the U.S. and global financial markets into a tailspin. To avert such a crisis, Congress must vote to raise the debt ceiling and increase the amount the government is able to borrow. But despite urgent pleas from Democrats, House Republicans are stalling on the vote and using their narrow majority to demand spending cuts. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned that without swift action, the government could default on its loans as early as June. How soon can we expect Congress to negotiate and pass a debt limit increase? What will our country’s financial future look like if the stalemate drags on? Host Jenn White convened a panel of experts to talk about it. Guests: **Leigh Ann Caldwell**: co-author of *Early 202* and live anchor at the Washington Post; **Jeanna Smialek**: Federal Reserve and economy reporter, The New York Times; **Natasha Sarin**: economist and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and counselor for tax policy and implementation, U.S. Treasury; and **Michael Strain**: director of economic policy studies and a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

February 01: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Ron DeSantis and the battle over Black history. This week, the College Board released the updated framework for its advanced African American Studies course amid backlash from conservative lawmakers over the curriculum. Last month, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Education banned the course from being taught in the state’s public schools. In a statement, the FDOE called the course a violation of state law and lacking in historical value, a claim that many experts and historians refute. Critics say it’s a further attempt by conservative politicians to limit what and how history – particularly racial history – is taught. What place should politics have in determining school curriculum? How should states regulate the teaching of history? Host Jenn White convened a panel of experts to talk about it. Guests: **Andrew Spar**: president, Florida Education Association; **Sen. Shevrin Jones**: Democratic member of the Florida Senate, representing District 35; **Adam Laats**: education historian, professor of education at Binghamton University, author of “The Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American Education”; **Natalia Mehlman Petrzela**: professor of history, The New School; author, “Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture.”; and **Janai Nelson**: President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

February 06: 10:20 a.m. 34 minutes: American institutions still hold more than 110,000 sets of Native American remains. Why? U.S. institutions still hold more than 110,000 sets of Native American remains, according to a new investigation by ProPublica. They're still being held today despite the passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. That law is supposed to aid in the return of remains and cultural items. But since its passing, many universities and museums have failed to comply. Last month, Harvard University repatriated the remains of 313 Native people to the Wampanoag tribes. In October, the Wiyot tribe says they received 20 sets of remains from the University of California, Berkeley. The two universities still hold the highest number of remains of any American institution in their collections. Why has the repatriation process been so slow after over three decades of legislation? Host Jenn White is joined by experts to discuss these issues **Mary Hudetz:** reporter focusing on tribal issues throughout the Southwest, ProPublica; member of the Crow tribe; and **Logan Pappenfort:** Curator of anthropology, Dickson Mound State Museum, citizen of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

March 13: 10:20 a.m. 34 minutes: 1A Remaking America: Crime, the Senate, and Washington D.C. Dozens of Democratic senators voted alongside their Republican counterparts last week on the issue of crime and safety in our nation's capital. The Senate voted 81-14 to block a criminal code rewrite that was unanimously approved by the D.C. City Council. The criminal code overhaul included major changes to criminal sentencing – including reducing maximum sentences for carjacking and eliminating mandatory minimums. A Pew Research poll from 2021 found that 37 percent of Americans believe people convicted of crimes spend the proper amount of time behind bars. The responses were sharply divided on political lines, with 54 percent of liberals and 10 percent of conservatives saying they believed sentences are too long. Host Jenn White and guest discussed the intersection of politics and criminal justice policy and what should Congress have over D.C.'s affairs. Guests: **Martin Austerhuhle:** reporter and editor, WAMU; **Charles Allen:** D.C. council member representing Ward 6; **Amy Fettig:** Executive Director of the Sentencing Project; and **Ronald Weich:** dean, University of Baltimore School of Law. *This show was part of 1A's Remaking America collaboration with six partner stations around the country. Remaking America is funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.*

Arts and Culture programs

January 10: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Listener Picks: Art and artificial intelligence. You see a painting that takes your breath away. The colors are loud and vibrant, the details are meticulous. Beside a Monet or a Matisse, it has no trouble holding its own spotlight. In short, you are moved. Then you find out it was made by artificial intelligence. How do you feel about the painting now? If you're not entirely sure, you're not alone. A.I. art has made major gains in the past couple of years. Amateur users can now use tools like DALL-E 2 and Midjourney, both programs released last year, to create complicated art. But they've also created a lot of controversy—particularly among artists who say A.I. is using their artwork without their consent. What does it mean for a machine to create a piece of art in minutes that would take the average human artist weeks to make? Host Jenn White and guest discuss the controversy. Guests: **Drew Harwell:** reporter, The Washington Post; **Marian Mazzone;** professor, modern contemporary art, College of Charleston; **David Young:** artist and technologist; and **Steven Zapata:** professional designer, illustrator and art teacher.

January 30: 10:20 a.m. 35 minutes: What 100 years of Disney means for American entertainment. What comes to mind when you think of Disney? Princesses searching for love? Talking animals saving the day? Theme parks with fireworks lighting the sky? The answer is different depending on who you ask. The company will enter its 100th year as the largest entertainment firm in the world. Disney is worth \$180 billion and had four of the ten highest-grossing films of 2022. But the company's journey hasn't been a fairytale. From accusations of poor employee pay and a lack of diversity in their content, even at hundred Disney has a lot of growing to do. **Brooks Barnes:** media and entertainment reporter, the New York Times; and **Sarah Nilsen:** associate professor, the University of Vermont join Host Jenn White to discuss these questions.

February 16: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: 1A Record Club: Remembering Burt Bacharach. Going all the way back to the '60s, Burt Bacharach made his mark on the pop music industry with his lush, melodic tunes. He passed away on Feb. 8 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 94 years old. Lyricist Hal David and singer Dionne Warwick were his most famous collaborators, producing hits like "Walk On By" and "I Say A Little Prayer." As he grew older, his love for the craft of music-making didn't let up. He collaborated with Daniel Tashian on the Grammy-nominated record "Blue Umbrella" in

2020. We got the 1A Record Club together in remembrance of Bacharach to discuss his legacy and influence on the pop music industry. Host Jenn White was joined by guests **Jordan Lehning**: Composer, arranger, and music producer based in Nashville; **Daniel Tashian**: songwriter, producer, and instrumentalist based in Nashville; **Nate Chinen**: editorial director at NPR member station WRTI and NPR Music contributor; and **Jason Lipshutz**: senior director of music; Billboard.

March 13: 10:20 a.m. 34 minutes: The 1A Movie Club recaps the 2023 Oscars. Hollywood’s biggest night has come and gone. And it was a memorable one, even in the run-up. Shortly after announcing its nominees, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences conducted an internal investigation into the campaigning tactics of best actress nominee Andrea Riseborough. And, excluding Michelle Yeoh of “Everything Everywhere All At Once”, this year’s slate of best actor nominees were entirely white. That’s three years after the academy announced new diversity guidelines in response to 2015’s Oscars-so-white campaign. So where do the Oscars go from here? And what do this year’s awards tell us about the state of moviegoing? Host Jenn White and **John Horn**: covering arts and entertainment, KPCC; host, “Retake” podcast; and **Jacqueline Coley**: editor, Rotten Tomatoes convened to discuss these questions.

Other notable 1A Programs that address issues of importance include:

January 02: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The science of sticking with it.

January 03: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: State legislatures are tackling abortion, gas prices, and more this year.

January 11: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The future of the death penalty.

January 31: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The science behind the great gas stove debate.

February 01: 11:06 a.m. 11 minutes: Facing federal pressure, six states found a way to conserve Colorado River water.

February 06: 10:06 a.m. 11 minutes: The U.S. shot down “China’s spy balloon.” What now?

February 20: 11:06 a.m. 46 minutes: How presidential plates and palates have shaped politics.

March 01: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: The Kids Aren’t Alright: The post-pandemic teen mental health crisis.

March 06: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Child labor violations have quadrupled since 2015. How did we get here?

March 30: 10:06 a.m. 46 minutes: Marking 20 years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi

This program focuses exclusively on issues of importance in our listening area and connects the dots between events happening in Washington, D.C., and the state houses in Annapolis, Maryland and Richmond, Virginia. With resident analyst Tom Sherwood, the program maintains a vital forum for the public to engage with elected officials and hold them accountable.

Every Friday in this reporting period, Kojo and resident analyst Tom Sherwood hosted governors, statewide office holders, city and county elected officials, regional appointed officials, and candidates for public office. There were thirteen locally produced editions of The Politics Hour totaling 707 minutes of programming involving over forty guests.

In addition to probing the guests on their views, listeners are encouraged to call in and ask questions directly of the guests.

Examples of programming to address issues of local importance include:

Crime

January 20: 12:06 a.m. 50 minutes: Councilmember Pinto talks about new criminal code. The D.C. council overturned Mayor Muriel Bowser’s (D) veto of the revised criminal code. We talk with the new chair of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, Councilmember Brooke Pinto (D-Ward 2), about why the council is pushing

through the changes to the century-old code. And we ask Pinto about her efforts to make e-bikes more affordable and cut down on car noise.

March 02: 12:06 a.m. 50 minutes: D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and Councilmember Charles Allen on the fate of D.C.'s revised criminal code in Congress. President Joe Biden said Thursday he would not veto a measure in Congress that would block D.C.'s criminal code overhaul from becoming law. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen join Kojo and Tom to discuss what it means for the bill and the District's autonomy. Prince George's County Councilmember Krystal Oriadha talks about the recently passed rent stabilization bill, traffic safety measures, and the arrest of College Park Mayor Patrick Wojahn on fifty-six counts of possession of child pornography.

March 02: 12:06 a.m. 50 minutes: House Republicans question D.C. officials on police reform, crime. In a hearing this week, U.S. House Republicans grilled D.C. officials on crime and police reform. Kojo and Tom talk with D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen (D-Ward 6), one of the officials called to testify, about the hearing and what happens next. Plus, we'll ask Allen what he thinks of the mayor's budget, and if District residents can still expect free Metrobus rides as early as this summer.

Local Politics

January 06: 12:06 a.m. 50 minutes: Bower begins her third term. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) starts her third term this week – the only person since the late Marion Barry to be elected District mayor for three consecutive terms. One of her priorities: bringing 15,000 new residents to downtown D.C. in the next five years. Kojo and Tom talk with Bowser about her economic vision for the city. Plus, we talk about the future of the D.C. Housing Authority, which operates the city's public housing. And we ask how Bowser will approach public safety in 2023, the new deputy mayor for public safety, and what concerns she has about the revised D.C. Criminal Code.

January 13: 12:06 a.m. 25 minutes: Prince George's County's Dernoga talks 2023 priorities. Local politics in Prince George's County, Thomas Dernoga (D-District 1) is getting comfortable as county council chair. Kojo and Tom talked with Thomas Dernoga about his priorities for the year ahead, including affordable housing and open government. Plus, the county council looks much different than it did in the past. What's it like working with the freshman lawmakers?

February 10: 12:26 a.m. 25 minutes: U.S House Of Representatives voted to overturn two local D.C. bills. U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn two local D.C. bills this week — one that allows non-citizens to vote in local elections, and one that changes the city's century-old criminal code. Kojo and Tom talked with WAMU and DCist reporter Martin Austermuhle about the news.

Affordable Housing

January 27: 12:06 a.m. 50 minutes: Housing debates ramp up across the region. Housing debates continue to roil the region. The Politics Hour start with Arlington County Board Member Matt de Ferranti (D) on the marathon hearings about the county's Missing Middle plan, which advanced this week. And as budget season nears, we ask what de Ferranti would like the county to prioritize. Then Montgomery County Council Vice President Andrew Friedson (D-District 1) discuss with Kojo and Tom about a new bill that would “co-locate” affordable housing on public land. Friedson chairs the council's Planning, Housing & Parks Committee, so we'll also ask about his goals for the committee and where things stand with the beleaguered Planning Board.

February 17: 12:06 a.m. 46 minutes: D.C. officials respond to clearing of McPherson Square homeless encampment. This week, the National Park Service cleared out the homeless encampment at McPherson Square, the largest encampment in the District. This happened two months earlier than scheduled because of a request from D.C. Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Wayne Turnage. Kojo and Tom talk with Turnage about the clearing, and pushback from unhoused residents and advocates. Then, we talked with D.C. Councilmember Robert White (D-At Large), who chairs the Housing Committee on the council. What's his response to the clearing, and what's the council's role in connecting unhoused residents with resources? Plus, we ask White about what he thinks about the mayor's D.C. Public Schools budget.

2023 Legislative Session

January 13: 12:06 a.m. 25 minutes: Maryland and Virginia lawmakers kick off their legislative sessions. If you live in Richmond or Annapolis, you can undoubtedly feel it in the air: the buzz of the 2023 legislative session. Maryland Democrats will enjoy having an ally in the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years, along with control of both chambers of the general assembly. And while Virginia has a Republican governor and House of Delegates, the Democrat-controlled Senate could put a wrench in their priorities. What should we expect from the legislative sessions? Kojo and Tom talked with WAMU's Northern Virginia reporter Margaret Barthel and the Baltimore Banner's Pamela Wood.

February 24: 12:01p.m. 25 minutes: Reservations over Governor Wes Moore's nominee. Maryland State Sen. Will Smith (D) talks about his reservations over Governor Wes Moore's nominee for the Public Service commission, as well as all the issues up for debate during this legislative session, including setting up a recreational marijuana market, allowing Montgomery County to use ranked choice voting, and protection for abortion rights.

D.C. Transportation News

February 10: 12:01p.m. 25 minutes: "Blue Line Corridor" in Prince George's County gets funding boost. Maryland's Board of Public Works approved \$400 million for Prince George's County "Blue Line Corridor," a major development project that could include a new Commanders stadium. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks (D) joins Kojo and Tom to talk about what's next for the project. Plus, we talk about her serving on Gov. Wes Moore's (D) transition team, and that's ahead for the county this year. The Prince William County Board of Supervisors put off a vote on data center zoning until March. Chair Ann Wheeler (D-At Large) joins the program to discuss. Plus, what does Prince William County want to see from the general assembly this year, and how does it plan to spend its \$10 million in congressional infrastructure funding?

February 24: 12:01p.m. 25 minutes: Metro General Manager Randy Clarke on safety, ridership, and oversight. Recently, the D.C. Council held their annual oversight hearing for WMATA. Metro General Manager Randy Clarke joins Kojo and Tom to talk about what happened. We also get the latest on everything from new improvement announcements to more about the safety concerns facing the Metro.

WAMU also produces **The Big Broadcast** with Murray Horwitz and **Hot Jazz Saturday Night** with Rob Bamberger.