

Quarterly Public Report for WNRN Public File

A-- During the 3rd quarter (July 1, -September 30, 2012), WNRN News reported on and followed the following stories which other local print, broadcast media and governmental agencies found of interest to the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties:

Route 29 Western By-Pass

A public meeting about the Western Bypass in Albemarle County attracted hundreds of citizens on Thursday, September 27th. The meeting, required by federal environmental protection laws, was run by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and gave members of the community a chance to gather information about the proposed 6.2 mile highway and to make comments. The comments received will be summarized reviewed by Federal Highway officials, who have the power to require further environmental studies before the bypass can be built.

Stony Point Tragedy

On August 29th we reported that a shooting on Albemarle County's Stony Point Road has left four people dead. Investigators have not released details of the incident, but police and rescue personnel responded to a report of shots fired just around midnight last night. They found three people dead at a residence on Stony Point's thirty-eight hundred block, which is along route twenty between Charlottesville and Barboursville. The fourth person had suffered life-threatening injuries and died after transport to the UVA medical center. The investigation is ongoing.

On August 30th we reported that more details are emerging from a murder-suicide in Keswick on Tuesday August 28th. According to the Albemarle Police Department four people were found at the house on the thirty-eight-hundred block of Stony Point Road. Investigators say that Elizabeth Walmuton 49, and her children Noah Romando, 19 and two juveniles Lily Romando and Andrew Romando all died from the incident. Three of the victims died at the scene while a fourth was discovered with life threatening injuries and later died at the UVa Medical Center. The police are still investigating the deaths and they believe the suspect of the killings is among the deceased.

State Budget

On July 16th we reported that Governor Bob McDonnell had urged President Obama to keep Congress in session to prevent five hundred billion dollars in emergency defense cuts from going into effect. Virginia could lose over one hundred thousand jobs if the cuts go through. Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest responded by saying republicans gave the measure strong support in Congress, and blamed political deadlock for the lack of action.

On July 18th we reported that Virginia could lose nearly two hundred eight thousand jobs and ten point seven billion dollars in labor income if Congress fails to resolve the looming budget crisis. Virginia ranks second to California in estimated job losses from budget reductions that are scheduled to begin January second twenty thirteen. The cuts would impact Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads hardest due to the defense related and federal contracting jobs in those areas. Researchers report the automatic spending cuts will cost more than two million jobs nationwide.

On July 30th we reported that according to the governor's office, Virginia will post a one hundred twenty nine point two million dollar revenue surplus for fiscal year 2012, which ended on June 30th. Gov. Bob McDonnell had previously said the state would have a budget surplus for the third year in a row. Virginia ended the previous fiscal year, 2011, over five hundred million in the black, through better-than-expected tax revenue and agency savings. That followed a more than four hundred million dollar surplus from 2010. Gov. Bob McDonnell would discuss the final revenue report today July, 30th.

On July 31st we reported that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation was making 1.62 million dollars available for the development of local storm water management programs as part of the legislation that was passed this year in the General Assembly. The funds will be available in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 - Preliminary applications must be postmarked by midnight Sept. 7.

On July 31st we reported that Virginia had posted a 129 million dollar revenue surplus for the fiscal year that ended June 30, Most of that surplus is spoken for - 78 million dollars to the rainy day fund and 12 million dollars to the water quality fund, but a portion is expected to go towards state employees. McDonnell's office said nearly \$80 million is needed to cover the bonuses and he is optimistic there will be enough to cover the distribution. State workers haven't received a pay raise in about five years, although a 3 percent performance bonus was distributed in December 2010.

On August 1st we reported that Local legislators said Governor Bob McDonnell's Monday announcement about the state's one hundred twenty nine million dollar surplus made it sound as though local governments and citizens would be beneficiaries of the windfall. Instead, more than seventy eight million dollars will go to Virginia's Rainy Day fund. More of the surplus will pay for transportation's share of the accelerated sales tax and the state's water quality fund. Augusta County Supervisor David Karaffa said that while he appreciates the idea of a Rainy Day Fund, that kind of time is right now.

On August 14th we reported that Governor Bob McDonnell had announced that state workers will receive a one-time bonus of three percent in December. The bonus was made possible due to an almost four-hundred-fifty million dollar surplus. He said quote “We are rewarding our state employees for their sound management, and successful saving strategies, with a three percent performance bonus, while saving taxpayer dollars at the same time.”

Public Education

On July 3rd we reported that The U.S. Department’s Institute for Education Sciences had awarded a \$1.27 million dollar grant to researchers at the University of Virginia. The aim of the research is to equip preschool teachers with evidence based strategies to manage behavioral issues so that students are ready and get the most out of grade school. The development of these strategies will be researched over the next three years in collaboration with the University of Miami and will then be piloted in Head Start programs in Charlottesville and Miami.

On July 3rd we reported that Virginia’s college students are feeling the pain of the nation’s ongoing economic crisis. According to the Virginia Department of Social Services, an increasing number of students are participating in the state’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, a federally funded program through which qualifying individuals can receive food stamps. In January of two-thousand seven, students accounted for about four-hundred fifty-thousand dollars in SNAP expenses; in January of twenty-twelve, that amount was just under three million. Like other recipients, college student must meet certain requirements of eligibility: he or she must work at least eighty hours per month, participate in work-study, or be a single parent. And with a lack of employment opportunities and a climate of increased government budget cuts, many students seem to have no other choice.

On July 12th we reported that schools in the Albemarle county area were working hard to make internet access available to all of their students. The new plan will give students who live in rural areas who may have spotty connection or none at all, reliable access to the internet by ensuring that all students can be reached by broadband service. Some were concerned about the price though, as only about two hundred thousand of the million dollar project is included in the school budget.

On July 17th we reported that UVA President Teresa Sullivan announced today that the University of Virginia will offer free online courses through the provider Coursera. The online forum is expected to broaden the scope of UVA’s higher education and in doing so; UVA will join other prestigious institutions like Princeton, Stanford, and the universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania. Sullivan has said that welcoming the world into the learning environment of Thomas Jefferson will strengthen the role that UVA plays in global education. It’s anticipated that the venture with Coursera will allow professors to assign the basic online courses to students as a pre-cursor to the face-to-face time students spend in the lecture hall.

On July 17th we reported that the University of Virginia School of Law capital campaign had raised \$174 million dollars in the eight year period that ended June 30th. The campaign had set the goal of \$150 million dollars - 50% of the alumni made gifts to the school. Law School Dean Paul Mahoney said the achievement is even more significant in this economic climate and that the funding will ensure financial aid, debt forgiveness, professorships and a state of the art Student Services Center.

On July 25th we reported that next semester UVa students could take a class on the Sullivan debacle. The three hundred level Media Studies class is called *Documenting UVa's Future: Oral History of the Ouster and Reinstatement*. John Alexander, the professor of the course said, "Something was deeply touching thousands of people; they responded in some powerful way to something that was unfolding in front of them so the oral history is just an invitation to those people who want to explore that, who want that story told."

On July 26th we reported that university officials at William & Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School announced on Wednesday, July 25th that they are considering a merger of the two schools. The plan would include turning EVMS into William and Mary's branch of medical school. Should the two schools decide to become one, it would require the approval of both the general assembly and the governor. There has already been a great deal of collaboration between the students and faculty of the two schools.

On August 2nd we reported that while state university boards are often filled with supporters and friends of the schools, governor McDonnell has appointed many new members to multiple boards of visitors following the crisis at UVA. He appointed a number of teachers and retired university officials to boards in an attempt to prevent another situation like the one at UVA. In his search to appoint new members McDonnell looked for those who share his goals to reduce tuition costs and to allow more spots for in state students.

On August 3rd we reported that a new report names The University of Virginia as the top public university in the country. Forbes Magazine bestowed the honor on the University as part of its annual ranking of America's Top Colleges. The article ranked UVA number 36 out of the top 100 schools in the USA, with the top 35 slots going to private schools and service academies. Also making the cut were Washington and Lee at number 15, William and Mary at number 40, and the University of Richmond at number 73. Governor McDonnell issued a statement praising the high ranking of state schools.

On August 7th we reported that a report by the Washington Examiner finds that UVA's beleaguered Board of Visitors spends more than any other state college board in Virginia. According to the paper, in 2011, the UVA Board dropped more than one-hundred twenty-five thousand dollars on food and travel for its members. To contrast, VCU's board spent less than forty-eight thousand on such expenses, even though it serves about eight-thousand more students. The largest expense the UVA Board incurs is its annual members' retreat. Last year, the board paid about thirty-four thousand dollars for the two-day event. Board Rector Helen Dragas said that the retreat is necessary to help members focus on important issues and that the board is working to minimize its costs.

On August 12th we reported that Teachers in Albemarle County Public Schools would be attending a four day Teacher Academy before the start of the school year. The class started Tuesday, August 14th at Monticello High School to demonstrate new technologies and how to incorporate resources like MP3 players and web-based programs into their curriculum. Of about one hundred new teachers in the county this year, this will be the first time teaching for almost half of them.

On August 12th we reported that The Virginia General Assembly approved a law that will require high school students, starting with this year's freshmen, to pass at least one online class to graduate. Javaid Siddiqi, deputy secretary of education, said "This movement is being infused in schools across the country. We want to make sure all students are exposed to this mode of instruction." A pilot program called Virtual Virginia Beach has almost nine hundred students in ten courses. Some board members are concerned about the program's cost and performance of students lacking time management skills.

On August 13th we reported that in Charlottesville, The International Sociological Association's conference on "Labor Market and Educational Transitions in Uncertain Times" was being hosted at the University of Virginia through Wednesday. The conference would include remarks from UVA President Theresa Sullivan, who is a Sociology scholar and former instructor at the University of Texas. Officials say conference sessions will discuss how social inequality impacts labor markets, education, and job security, among other topics. Presenters included intellectuals from Harvard, Yale, and Columbia, as well as many prestigious international universities.

On August 14th we reported that overall math results for the Standards of Learning test- better known as the SOLs- showed a notable decline from last year's math scores all across the state of Virginia. In Albemarle County, third grade math students exhibited a pass rate drop from last year's ninety-one percent to a sixty percent pass rate. This seems to be a result of the revised math standards, which were first put into practice last year. These new standards aim to better prepare students for college and post-graduation employment. Even with the more demanding math standards in place, sixth grade students in Charlottesville and Albemarle County saw minor score increases.

On August 20th we reported that a Spring Course in the Batten School at the University of Virginia had secured a grant to help support a Charlottesville program that provides temporary work for former inmates. Students in Christin Mahoney's course participated in a grant-writing exercise, acquiring twenty thousand dollars in foundation funding for Charlottesville's local Offender Aid and Restoration office. The "Coming Home to Work" program that will benefit from the money sponsors former inmates to work for the City's Parks and Recreation Department part-time for ten weeks.

Henrico County schools are operating on a new schedule for the school year as of September 4th. All county high schools are opening later, at nine AM, with a later dismissal at three-fifty-five PM. Middle school days have ten less minutes than last year, and different elementary schools will start at different times, ranging from seven-forty to eight-ten AM. The changes meet teacher requests for more instruction and planning time, and they allow bus routes to be more efficient.

The final Standards of Learning test results came in on Wednesday, September 12th. The Virginia Department of Education released the data which includes the performance ratings of student subgroups such as African-Americans, Hispanics, and students with disabilities. The Department of Education has said that the new math SOL test caused scores to fall by eight to 25 points across the state. According to the Albemarle County Public School's assistant superintendent for student learning, the test scores for the county are quote "above the state averages and graduation rates in the county are nine percentage points above the national level."

The Virginia Department of Education announced the hiring of a specialist on September 13th to ensure teachers convicted of sexual misconduct don't return to the classroom. Nancy Walsh will follow up on sexual misconduct cases involving teachers to identify licenses that haven't been revoked. The Virginia Board of Education has revoked or canceled the licenses of 40 teachers involved in sexual misconduct with students or minors since January 2010.

Charlottesville City schools are making changes to prepare for the new Virginia Standards of Learning tests, which are reported to be more difficult this year. City Schools have changed their reading curriculum and textbooks to get ready for the big changes with standardized testing. Administrators say that the new textbooks, called Benchmark Literacy, are more geared toward fitting the individual needs of each student, and focus more specifically on improving literacy skills. Last year the math portion of the SOL became more rigorous and schools saw significant drops in scores, so teachers in Charlottesville say they're hoping with all this preparation they'll have better results when the English test becomes harder this year.

College-bound seniors in Virginia's class of 2012 helped the state continue to top national trends on the annual SAT exam, while national numbers continued to drop. As a group, the Virginia students topped the national average in critical reading and writing and just missed the mark in math. For public school students, who make up 90 percent of the testing groups, the numbers were higher than the national average in all three categories. Education professionals in the state credit these scores with increased Sol testing standards over the past few years.

UVa was named Number one among public universities in Forbes Magazine, and thirty sixth of Forbes top 100 American Colleges. The ranking focuses on quality of teaching, career prospects, graduation rates and student debt, not reputations. The University of Virginia was also named the Number One Party School in America by Playboy, in the magazine's seventh rating of schools. Southern Cal, Florida, Texas and Wisconsin made the top five in Playboy's listing.

Ninety-Six percent of Virginia's public schools are now fully accredited and meet the state standards for achievements according to the Virginia Department of Education. The percentage of accredited high schools rose to ninety percent from eighty-six percent last year. The requirements include a graduation completion index for high schools. Although standards have become harder to attain Board of Education President, David M. Foster stated quote "We are confident, that over the long haul our graduates will be better prepared to succeed in college and the workplace"

Monticello High School Chemistry teacher Michael Fair-a-bah is set to appear on the Jeopardy! "Teachers Tournament" next week. He has started reviewing for Jeopardy saying quote "I'd already been practicing and training a little bit for Jeopardy just in case." Taping for the show takes place next week but the tournament will not air until November.

Virginia Lacrosse Murder Trial

On July 2nd we reported that a judge in Albemarle will decide whether or not to disclose certain evidence in the George Huguely trial from February. A lawyer representing a number of media outlets petitioned the courts for the release of information regarding the case. Huguely was convicted of killing his girlfriend Yeardeley Love and will be sentenced in Late August.

On July 19th we reported that on Wednesday, July 18th it was reported that the Charlottesville commonwealth's attorney filed a motion against those of George Huguely's defense to have the verdict of the trial reassessed. Commonwealth attorney, Dave Chapman's motion explained that it should not have been a surprise that a civil suit would be filed against Huguely. Chapman says he was not notified of the defense's concern that a civil suit would be filed and he said the Brady motion would not apply to this case.

On August 6th we reported that George Huguely's attorneys were seeking a later sentencing date while they appeal the guilty verdict in the case. Huguely was convicted of killing his former girlfriend Yeardeley Love, and also faces civil suits from her family. He is currently behind bars in the Albemarle county jail awaiting sentencing, which, if the motion passes, will likely be sometime in October.

On August 14th we reported that a Charlottesville judge determined yesterday that the George Huguely case will continue as scheduled. In a ten-minute hearing, Judge Edward Hogshire dismissed the defense team's motions to delay the second-degree murder case. The former UVA lacrosse player was convicted in February in the death of his ex-girlfriend, fellow lacrosse player Yeardeley Love, and his lawyers say complications, including a thirty-million dollar civil suit filed by Love's family, should justify a new trial for Huguely. Instead, the retrial decision remains set for August twenty-second, and the sentencing is scheduled for August thirtieth. The potential maximum sentence is twenty-six years in prison.

On August 21st we reported that Charlottesville Judge Edward Hogshire had dismissed the latest motion from the attorneys of George Huguely, the former lacrosse player convicted for second-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend Yeardeley Love. The defense team had argued for a new evidentiary hearing based on the Brady doctrine. According to this legal precedent, the prosecution must present the defense with any evidence that could detract from a witness's credibility, and Huguely's lawyers contended that the Commonwealth's Attorney failed to disclose the Love family's plans for a civil suit against Huguely before his sentencing hearing. Judge Hogshire, however, says the defense could have expected such a move and had sufficient time to research the matter. Another retrial request will be decided on Wednesday.

On August 22nd we reported that George Huguely, the man who was convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend, Yardley Love, is requesting to be granted a new trial. His defense team claims a number of issues prevented Huguely from receiving a fair trial in February, including a co-council being too ill to perform her duties while evidence was being presented. Huguely currently faces twenty-six years in prison. The judge will rule his renewal case on August 30th.

On August 23rd we reported that George Huguely's request for a new trial was denied by a Charlottesville judge on Wednesday. Huguely is a former UVA lacrosse player convicted in February for the 2010 murder of his ex-girlfriend, Yeadley Love. The defense claimed that the absence of attorney, Rhonda Quagaliana, and the fact that the jury was not sequestered made the trial unfair to Huguely. The judge stated that the absence had no impact in the perception of the jury and he rhetorically asked how a court can sequester a jury in the 21st century. Sentencing is scheduled for August 30th. Huguely faces up to 26 years in prison.

On August 30th we reported that George Huguely will be formally sentenced following his conviction for the murder of his ex-girlfriend Yeadley Love in May of 2010. On August 29th attorneys for Huguely filed an appeal to reduce his sentence. The jury in Huguely's case recommended a sentence of twenty-six years; his attorneys are asking that to be cut to fourteen years. Today Circuit Court Judge Edward Hogshire will give out the sentence and he is not bound to the jury's recommendation. However, judges in the Commonwealth usually follow the jury's sentence.

On August 31st we reported that convicted murderer, George Huguely, was sentenced yesterday, August 30th to 23 years in prison. The former University of Virginia lacrosse team member was convicted last February of second degree murder for the death of fellow UVA student Yeadley Love in March 2010. The jury recommended a 26-year prison term, and Judge Edward Hogshire gave Huguely 23 years plus three years of supervised release. Huguely's lawyer says that she plans to appeal the sentence to a higher court.

Attorneys for George Huguely announced their plan to appeal the August 30th sentencing from Charlottesville Circuit Court judge Edward Hogshire. On Thursday, the former UVA lacrosse star Huguely received twenty-three years imprisonment for the second-degree murder of his ex-girlfriend Yeadley Love, and with sentencing thus set, Huguely's team has thirty days to file notice of appeal. After the notice is filed, the circuit court clerk has another thirty days to file it with the court of appeals. At the earliest, the appeal would be decided in mid-February of twenty-thirteen. Meanwhile, the Love family has filed several civil lawsuits, including a wrongful death lawsuit against the state and the UVA lacrosse coach.

On September 20th, the family of Yeadley Love spoke out for the first time about her death in May of 2010 at the hands of her ex-boyfriend George Huguely. Love's mother and sister spoke about Yeadley's personality and life with Katie Couric in an exclusive interview on the talk show "Katie". The show will shine a light on dating violence and how to recognize the signs.

George Huguely's attorney filed a notice of appeal on September 25th in Charlottesville Circuit Court. Huguely was sentenced earlier this year to twenty three years in prison for the second degree murder of Yeardeley Love. Legal analyst Lloyd Snook said there will be –quote- “no new evidence, maybe some new arguments, but again...(the court) should only look at the arguments that have been made, not completely new arguments” Huguely has also been transferred to state custody.

Derecho

As of July 2nd cooling shelters were opened across the area after Friday, June 29th's storm left many without power. Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency to free up funds for rescue and cleanup operations. In Albemarle County, police confirmed that two people were killed by the storm, out of seven total. Currently crews worked on clearing fallen trees and repairing power lines. Temperatures above one hundred degrees can pose a serious health risk, especially to children and the elderly.

On July 3rd we reported that recent extreme weather had prompted emergency procedures from local and state officials. Friday, June 29th's derecho storm blitzed the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and Virginia's major power companies reported that more than two-hundred fifty-thousand customers remain without power. With temperatures hovering in the triple digits, the absence of electric air conditioning posed serious health risks. Many counties in the central part of the state, including Nelson, Albemarle, Augusta, and Orange, had established shelters where people could collect drinking water and cool down in generator-powered air conditioning, and utility crews had traveled from as far away as Florida to offer help.

On July 3rd we reported that the power outages from Friday's storm had caused a sewage treatment plant in Lynchburg to release 2.6 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the James River. Fred DiLella a compliance manager with the Department of Environmental Quality said that the water was treated with chlorine but that microbes hadn't fully broken down the waste. The Department of Health has announced that the risk to swimmers and paddlers is low but that swallowing water should be avoided and open wounds could become infected.

On July 4th we reported that it was reported on Wednesday that there were still over one million people from Indiana to Virginia who had been without power for over five days. The heat and power outages have been blamed for the deaths of over twenty three people. In Virginia alone, it had been said that there are still over sixty thousand people without power. The weekend storm was the largest in the power company's history excluding hurricanes. (And) Wednesday morning crews of relief workers were handing out food to those people who had no power to cook in Washington DC.

On July 5th we reported that Governor Bob McDonnell gave an update on Virginia's status since the Derecho. There had been twelve deaths and over one hundred thousand were still without power. The Department of Transportation was coordinating the clearing of major roads while Emergency management had brought almost seventy thousand gallons of clean water to areas in need.

On July 6th we reported that the latest figures for the City of Lynchburg showed that nearly 150 houses were damaged during last week's storms, including thirteen so badly that they have been condemned; those numbers were expected to rise as investigations continued. A news release from the city indicated that as of July 5th, more than 250 streets remained blocked by downed trees and debris, and that additional crews were being brought in to help clear the roads. Verizon had also opened a mobile shelter at the public library at 2315 Memorial Avenue for residents needing to charge their wireless devices or to use wireless internet services.

On July 9th we reported that more than a week after severe storms passed through the area, over one thousand customers were still without power. A few cooling centers were still open for residents without access to air conditioning. Utility trucks with Appalachian Power were now progressing to more rural areas, clearing trees and fixing power lines for the homes and businesses affected by the storm. Record heat had been deadly across the Mid-Atlantic, and those without power, especially the elderly were encouraged to visit cooling shelters when necessary.

On July 11th we reported that Lynchburg may get a visit from state and federal damage assessment team as early as tomorrow. The state's preliminary assessment indicated Lynchburg met the federal threshold for public assistance. Dozens of other localities also passed the initial interview. Lynchburg identified one hundred forty five privately owned buildings with storm damage and estimates the city's storm response will cost more than one million dollars. Public Works crews are running twelve hour shifts, with many employees not having a day off in more than two weeks.

On July 27th we reported that Local officials had released preliminary data listing the costs of the Derecho last month. According to the Albemarle County report, the June 29th storm was third behind two hurricanes in number of power outages in the Commonwealth. The county police received six-hundred-seventy calls in the weekend following the storm and three police cruisers were damaged. Fifteen-thousand cubic yards of debris had been collected as well. The county officials are still calculating the financial costs of overcoming the storm's wrath.

Morgan Harrington

On August 13th we reported that members of the organization Help Save the Next Girl canvassed Charlottesville this weekend for any information regarding Morgan Harrington's killer. Harrington was abducted and killed after a concert at the John Paul Jones arena in 2010, and her parents have been rallying the community to catch her killer. The organization says their efforts have resulted in more calls to police about the case, and they want to capitalize on this momentum.

James Halfaday

On July 6th we reported that James Halfaday, a former candidate for the Charlottesville City Council, would spend up to 60 days in jail. Halfaday was convicted in Charlottesville Circuit Court of felony election fraud for lying on his application for the election, saying he lived in the City of Charlottesville, when he actually lived in Albemarle County. He faced the possibility of up to 10 years in prison for the offense, and asked to be given supervised probation. Ultimately, he was given a five year term with all but sixty days suspended along with 40 hours of community service. Scott Goodman, Halfaday's attorney, said that his client could be out in 50 days with good behavior.

2012 Election

On July 12th we reported that Senate candidate George Allen had raised Two Million Dollars this quarter, his best so far. Despite this, Allen was still trailing behind the Democratic candidate Tim Kaine. Kaine has raised more in each of the past five quarters. Kaine has spent three and a half million dollars on TV ads. Allen had reserved, but not yet paid for, about three million dollars in ads. Since early last year Allen has raised over Eight Million and Kaine, over Ten Million.

On July 12th we reported that the Romney campaign bus was in Staunton today where Delegate Richard Bell touted the candidate's credentials and defended Romney's business record. Bell also told supporters "We have spread freedom around the globe where freedom didn't exist, and we have sacrificed in ways that no other country in the world has sacrificed. We don't owe anyone an apology."

On July 17th we reported that First Lady Michelle Obama had scheduled local visits for Friday, July 20th. Campaign aides confirm that Mrs. Obama would appear in Fredericksburg and in Charlottesville at the Main Street Arena at 1:40 PM. In Virginia, President Obama currently enjoyed a lead over contender Mitt Romney, and in 2008, he became the first Democratic candidate to win the state since Lyndon Johnson in 1964. However, his foothold in the Commonwealth is far from certain, and Mrs. Obama's ambassadorship could help him win the state's critical thirteen electoral votes.

On July 19th we reported that according to a Quinnipiac University poll, Obama and Romney are neck and neck in Virginia, a key battleground state. Romney recently gained Five Percent to tie Obama at forty four percent. Virginia voters appear to be split along gender, with men favoring Romney Forty Six to Forty Two and women favoring Obama Forty Six to Forty One. *Independent voters* favor Obama Forty to Thirty Eight Percent. However, neither is particularly liked. Peter Brown, the assistant director at the polling institute said "One of them is going to win the White House, but neither would get elected Prom King."

On July 24th we reported that on Friday, July 27th. The Virginia U.S. Senate contenders Republican George Allen and Democrat Tim Kaine would be in Lynchburg for an agricultural event. The candidates would join a forum hosted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers Committee between 3 to 5:30 Friday afternoon. The event would be held at the James

River Conference Center on Court Street. As of now this is the only scheduled events where the opposing candidates will discuss their views on the future of Virginia's agriculture.

On July 25th we reported that Presidential candidate Mitt Romney's campaign had asked state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli to investigate voter-registration forms going to Virginia residents. The nonprofit group, Voter Participation Center, sent populated forms to deceased relatives, children, and family pets much to the confusion of residents. The State Board of Elections sent the VPC a letter telling them to stop. Sending forms with the information populated violates state code and the Virginia Constitution.

On August 2nd we reported that Former Governors and current senate candidates George Allen and Tim Kaine had just agreed to three additional debates for fall. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will host the September twentieth debate in McLean. The October Eighth debate in Richmond is hosted by AARP, the League of Women Voters, and CBS Six. Virginia Tech and NBC Ten will host a debate on October Eighteenth in Blacksburg. Thus far the candidates have done battle twice. Once in December at Associated Press Day, and last month at the Homestead, sponsored by the Virginia Bar Association.

On August 8th we reported that Mitt Romney would visit Ashland this Saturday, August 11th on the "Romney Plan for a Stronger Middle Class" bus tour through Virginia and three other key swing states. The tour will continue through Virginia then move to North Carolina, Florida and Ohio. This was his first campaign trip to the Richmond area this year.

On August 12th we reported that the Virginia State Board of Elections had identified *ten thousand* deceased individuals on the state's voter rolls. The discrepancies appeared in a comparison between the Social Security Administration's death master file against Virginia voter rolls. The names found so far come from about one fourth of the total records, so more are expected. Local registrars will have to remove the deceased from their rolls.

On August 22nd we reported that President Barack Obama will campaign here in Charlottesville next week. He will arrive Wednesday, August 29th. His Charlottesville stop is one of three college town visits. He is also planning to visit the home of Iowa State University, as well as the home of Colorado State University. The president will likely visit the grounds of the University of Virginia, however no details are confirmed, but are expected later today.

On August 23rd we reported that President Barack Obama would be speaking at the University of Virginia next Wednesday August 29th. While UVa does not officially endorse any candidate, the school is working closely with the University Democrats to hash out the details on the logistics and security. According to the Charlottesville Democratic Party, this would be a ticketed event with special consideration given to the people that had tickets to the cancelled Michelle Obama event due to the tragic shooting in Colorado.

On August 27th we reported that The University of Virginia declined a request by the Obama campaign to speak on grounds. Administrators would have had to cancel classes and bring in additional security, which they were not willing to do on short notice. Instead, the President will speak at the nTelos wireless Pavilion downtown on Wednesday.

On August 28th we reported that President Barack Obama would be making a campaign stop in Charlottesville, August 29th at the Pavilion. The event opens at one pm and Obama will begin his rally at 3:30 pm. Secret Service agents and Charlottesville police have inspected the pavilion for security. Many building and streets in the area will be closed. Charlottesville area schools will close early. The President was supposed to speak at UVa, but security costs and location issues forced the university to decline. The Virginia GOP is preparing a strong response to the president's stop in Charlottesville.

On August 28th we reported that many of Albemarle County public schools will release students early tomorrow as a result of the intended road closures planned for President Barack Obama's visit. Josh Davis, Chief Operating Officer for Albemarle County Public Schools, says the closing of some roads will affect the transportation system's ability to get students home in accordance with normal schedules. Parents should plan for students in northern Charlottesville to arrive home three hours earlier than usual.

On August 30th we reported that President Barack Obama spoke to an energized crowd at the nTelos Wireless Pavilion in Charlottesville on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Obama was introduced by local dignitaries including Senate hopeful Tim Kaine. Students from the University of Virginia became the back drop to Mr. Obama's speech that was meant to boost the youth voter turnout from the upcoming November election. During his speech the President spoke about the effect the race will have throughout the Commonwealth.

The Virginia state board of elections said on September 3rd that Virgil Goode Jr, the Constitution Party presidential nominee, and Gary Johnson, the Libertarian nominee, have qualified for the November sixth elections. The ruling rejects efforts by the state Republican Party to bar Goode and Johnson from the Virginia ballot. The boards voted to have the attorney general's office investigate allegations of fraud. The allegations were raised by the state GOP regarding how the Constitution Party collected its signatures.

As of September 6th political groups outside the Commonwealth have bought thirty seven million dollars on TV air time in Virginia for this election cycle. In Two Thousand Eight, outside groups spent less than Three Million Dollars. The primary catalyst for this tenfold increase is the US Supreme Court's Citizens United decision allowing unlimited and anonymous political donations. Three quarters of that thirty seven million has come from conservative groups.

The First Lady was in Richmond on September 13th, rallying support for President Obama's campaign for re-election. Michelle Obama appeared at Center Stage in Richmond before hundreds of supporters, explaining that every vote was important, as the Commonwealth is expected to be hotly contested this election cycle. Echoing themes from her speech at the Democratic National Convention, Obama said that her husband understood the rights and opportunities of women, and that he would have their backs. Obama's rival, Republican Mitt Romney was also in the state today, campaigning in Fairfax City.

Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Paul Ryan, made a stop in the Shenandoah Valley on September 14th as he campaigns for office. The Congressman from Wisconsin stopped first at

the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, after which he'll head to Roanoke to speak at Landmark Aviation. Ryan has thus far attended rallies in Virginia on a number of occasions, including two stops in Richmond.

Virginia's Republicans are mobilizing ahead of the November election. The state's party chairman Pat Mullins visited with UVA students on September 17th, where he identified for the College Republicans key areas in the state for presidential candidate Mitt Romney. According to him, Romney must win Northern Virginia, the Richmond suburbs, and the Tidewater region. Meanwhile, the Jefferson Area Tea Party celebrated the Constitution yesterday on the Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. The group paid tribute to the document's two-hundred twenty-fifth anniversary with speeches, Freedom Wall artwork, and the distribution of copies to passers-by.

The Virginia State Board of Elections says about four point seven million voter registration cards will be hitting mailboxes beginning in late September. The board has launched a half million dollar outreach effort to educate voters about changes in the wake of new voter identification rules. Legislation signed earlier this year requires that voters without proper ID cast a provisional ballot, then have until noon the Friday after the election to submit acceptable identification.

Fluvanna county schools are projected to run a deficit of about five hundred and fifty thousand dollars this year. School administrators are asking the county supervisors to allow use of so-called carry over and small capital improvement funds to cover roughly half the deficit, and for the other half to come from the county general funds. Superintendent Gena Keller has been in talks with the supervisors who have yet to announce any concrete decisions.

On September 20th, US Senate candidates, and former governors, for Virginia sparred in McLean. Allen touted the three hundred thousand jobs created in his tenure and promised to work toward repealing the recent health care reform act. Kaine's focus was on letting the Bush tax cuts for people making over half a million dollars per year expire, ending subsidies for oil companies and criticizing Romney's comment about the Fourty Seven Percent. The next debate will be in Richmond on October Eighth.

George Allen visited Augusta County on September 26th to share the message of what he will do to help the business owners in Virginia to bounce back from the recession. He vowed to help the people turn it around by fighting what he says are the "burdensome" regulations on business and industry. He also claimed that a key to recovery will be tapping into our natural resources. He said that on his first day in the Senate he would introduce a bill to allow Virginia to drill for oil and natural gas off the coastline

UVa President Theresa Sullivan Resignation

On July 2nd we reported that University of Virginia's Student Council failed to reach a consensus on whether or not to ask for the resignation of Rector Helen Dragas. The council was divided whether to seek a poll of student support for the move or pursue a more litigious approach, if at all. Dragas may have overstepped her bounds as rector when she asked for President Teresa Sullivan's resignation, but with Sullivan's reinstatement, it seems the leadership crisis is over for now.

On July 6th we reported that a new batch of e-mails between University of Virginia Provost Helen Dragas and President Theresa Sullivan had been released. The communications came from a period just prior to when Sullivan was asked to resign show little indication of tension between the two, and included comments by Sullivan that UVA was suffering from a reputation gap, saying that in some areas the school was "reputed to be better than we actually are," and making recommendations on ways to hold onto staff in highly ranked programs that were not profitable.

On July 12th we reported that President Sullivan wrote a letter to university faculty and staff on July 11th. She wanted to make her plans for the near future known. Since she was reinstated she has taken the time to meet with the new and old board members and she sees the recent events as bringing those in the university community closer together rather than pushing it apart. She stated that despite financial problems exceptional education is still the university's main priority along with the faculty and staff and patient care.

On July 16th we reported that UVA's reinstated president, Theresa Sullivan, and the Board of Visitors Rector, Helen Dragas, were working together to mend the damage done by the recent forced resignation scandal. They released a joint statement today to the university community, pledging to improve communication and collaboration between the president and Board of visitors. They promised to work together to tackle challenges the University faces with human and financial resources as well, stating, quote: "We are unequivocally united in the belief that the institution's future is brighter than ever. Together, we commit to harness this renewed energy to advance the University's leadership role in higher education."

On August 8th we reported that University of Virginia's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Strine had resigned the afternoon of Tuesday, August 7th. His resignation was effective immediately. Insiders at UVA say Strine was an internal spy for the board of visitors, which led to President Teresa Sullivan's forced resignation. Sullivan said yesterday that Strine's resignation would allow the Board and president the chance to pursue changes aimed at communication, accountability and shared governance. Strine's severance package includes a portion of the value of his five year contract in the amount of eight hundred forty seven thousand dollars.

On August 7th we reported that Michael Strine, the University of Virginia's executive vice president and chief operating officer, had resigned after one year in the position. UVA President Teresa Sullivan said Strine brought great enthusiasm and energy to the university, but -quote- "Michael recently determined that it would be in the best interest of the university that he step down and allow me to do some necessary internal restructuring". Sullivan also stated that the University has begun a national search to find his replacement.

On August 9th we reported that next week there would be a Board of Visitors meeting and a group of university Alumni have spoken out to say they want answers as to how the crisis surrounding president Sullivan began. The alumni want to know how the board reached the decision to let Sullivan go and why governor McDonnell allowed Helen Dragas to keep her position. The group had said they want a quote "rigorous analytical retrospective" of the incident to prevent it from happening again in the future.

On August 15th we reported that Teresa Sullivan, President of the University of Virginia, had said she made mistakes in the way she handled her forced resignation and reinstatement over the summer. Sullivan says that after she was told there were enough votes for her to be forced out of office, she submitted her resignation. She says she should have asked the board to hold a vote instead of resigning. She adds quote "I didn't really want to put the university through a difficult period. As it turned out, I did not save the university from a difficult period at all."

University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan spoke to a crowd at the Miller Center Forum on September 12th and discussed her ousting and how the University could move past it. The crowd numbered more than 150 people. She discussed a number of topics such as funding, the cost of attending and new technology. Sullivan told the crowd she would help start a strategic planning effort in the fall. It will consist of two phases: assessment and planning. She hopes to have the plan finished by the end of the academic year.

The UVa board of visitors will be facing a review of their accreditation after the trying to replace President Teresa Sullivan over the summer. The board admitted that its decision to fire President Sullivan was embarrassing and regrettable but said it should not call their accreditation into question. The school has seen a dip in donations following the scandal, and the board is under pressure to comply to accreditation standards.

B – In accordance with perceived community needs, WNRN broadcast programs devoted to the following during its one-hour Sunday Morning interactive talk/call-in show during the quarter. Live guests representing government or community organizations were in the studio for all of the following:

- Sarah Lawson, Interim Executive Director of Piedmont Council of the Arts to discuss PCA programs to keep arts thriving in the schools and community.
- Research scientist Lorrie Delehanty and City Counselor Dede Smith of Residents Against Chlorimine in a discussion on Chloramines in local drinking water.
- UVA Professors of Politics Paul Freedman and Jeffery Jenkins talk of ways to improve our political system.
- Discuss philanthropy with representatives of local humanitarian organizations, including: Charlottesville Area Community Foundation; Community Investment Collaboration; and Future Fund.
- Discuss budgets, required tests & community concerns, with superintendents Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools and Deborah Pettit, Louisa County Schools.
- Legal expertise shared by, Scott Goodman, Attorney at Law, Heather Miller of the Charlottesville PRA, and Bob Byrne of Martin Wren Law
- Journalist Jayson Whitehead, Matt Hedstrom, Professor of Religious Studies at UVa, and Douglas Laycock, Professor at the UVa Law School discuss the trials and tribulations of including religion with major sports in public schools
- Veterinarian Mike Fietz answers questions about pet health.
- Local reps of Big Blue Door talk about different varieties of storytelling, the difference between writing and telling a story, and tell their own stories
- Charlottesville Pride Community Network discuss living life in Charlottesville while being a member of the LGBTQ+ community, political and social issues that surround being gay, and the first annual Charlottesville Pride Festival

- Charlottesville's Habitat for Humanity explains its modern methods of protecting and assisting residents in our area.
- UVA Professor Scott Harropp helps explain the past, present and future involving recent American Embassy violence in the Middle East and the Muslim world

Rick Moore
WNRN Public Affairs Director
September, 2012

C -- PSA report for Q3 of 2012

As of 07/01/12

Salvation Army Food	TFN
Community Dental Center	TFN
Historic Staunton Foundation	09/30/12
Lynchburg Daily Bread	TFN
Alzheimer's Association	10/13/12
Jazz in the Park, Staunton	08/30/12
Waynesboro parks and rec`	07/07/12
Fluvanna SPCA –fostering	07/14/12
Fluvanna SPCA – volunteering	07/21/12
Meals on Wheels Charlottesville Albemarle	08/31/12

As of 07/13/12

Orange Free Clinic	07/26/12
Charlottesville Future Fund	09/07/12
Big Brothers Big Sisters Richmond	08/11/12
Run for Their Lives Lynchburg	10/20/12
Special Olympics Virginia	09/15/12
Our Community Place Harrisonburg	07/28/12

As of 08/07/12

Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA	08/27/12
Charity Tot Trot	09/28/12
Fluvanna SPCA	09/09/12
Piedmont CASA	TFN

As of 08/10/12

Common Ground Healing	TFN
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As of 08/22/12

UVA Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship	09/14/12
Shady Grove Coffeehouse	09/08/12