

## Quarterly Public Report for WNRN Public File

- A-- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April 1, -June30, 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**

The Virginia Department of Transportation announced on April 18<sup>th</sup> that seven Design-Build teams have recently given technical proposals for a new Western Bypass along Route twenty-nine. The seven teams are all competing to win an award from the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The bypass project involves building a six-point-two mile, four-lane roadway from around the South Fork Rivanna River, to the bypass in Albemarle County.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we reported that during a meeting on Wednesday night, Albemarle County officials remained divided over the issue of the Western Bypass. At the meeting it was suggested that another public hearing be held on the project but as the vote was split supervisors will not ask for another hearing. Those in favor of another hearing stated that it would allow the public to offer solutions to minimize the impact on the surrounding schools and neighborhoods, while those against it claimed it was just another attempt to delay the project. According to the plan construction will begin later this year.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> we reported that the Virginia Department of Transportation has extended the deadline by one week for bidders to provide a price proposal for the Route 29 Western Bypass. Seven contractors have submitted bids in an effort to win the right to design and build the 6.2 mile road that will stretch from the route 250 bypass north to Route 29 just past the Rivanna River. Price bids were originally due yesterday, but now may be submitted as late as May 9<sup>th</sup>. VDOT is currently reviewing the proposals to ensure that they meet the technical requirements, and the contract is expected to be awarded to whoever says they can build the road for the least when the bids are opened on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Virginia Department of Transportation officials have announced plans to fully fund the replacement Belmont Bridge and Hillsdale Drive Extended. Charlottesville Tomorrow is reporting that the draft six year improvement program for 2013 includes about ten million dollars for a new bridge and thirteen million for the new road, money that was promised by Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton in exchange for local approval of funding for the Route 29 Western Bypass. While not enough money to pay for the Hillsdale Drive extension--the project is projected to cost thirty million dollars--officials say that the project could still begin moving forward by the summer of 2015.

A member of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors plans to hike the length of the proposed bypass to Route twenty-nine. The six-point-two mile walk stretches from the intersection of two-fifty and Leonard Sandridge Drive to the intersection of twenty-nine and Ashwood Boulevard, and Supervisor Christopher J. Dumler plans to complete it as of June 5<sup>th</sup>, one day ahead of the board's vote on the matter. Dumler will begin his trek at nine-thirty, and he says, quote, "I try never to vote on anything unless I've witnessed firsthand and in the most close-up way possible the consequences of my vote."

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors held a meeting today to discuss the proposed six-point-two mile Western Bypass. The supervisors all took an official position on the project, with the vote being split down the middle. One of the supervisors against the project, Christopher Dumler, said quote "VDOT might give us a good road, but in my mind, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. I'm going to keep squeaking until I get assurances from VDOT." Ken Boyd, who is supporting the project, says he is representing the majority, adding quote "There's a lot of people that live in this community that are in favor of the Bypass, but they're not going to take the time to come down and sit through a four hour meeting during the work week."

On Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> the Commonwealth Transportation Board made a decision regarding the western bypass. The job of building the bypass was given to a contractor from Virginia Beach who set their budget at nearly one hundred and thirty five million dollars. It was said that this budget was on the lower end compared to others that were proposed.

### **State Budget**

On April 4<sup>th</sup> we reported that The Virginia Senate and House of Delegates budget negotiators have resolved to complete their work by the end of this week. If successful, an amended compromise version of Governor McDonnell's eighty five billion dollar spending plan could be up for vote in the full General Assembly before lawmakers return April 18. Differences still persist in key areas, particularly transportation. Negotiators want lawmakers to have at least two days to review the proposal before putting it up for a vote in the General Assembly.

Virginia House and Senate talks ended on April 5<sup>th</sup> an agreement on a new eighty five billion dollar budget. The talks nearly collapsed in a dispute over sharp toll increases in northern Virginia. Senate Democrats demanded more than one hundred fifty million dollars for the Dulles project, but House negotiators rejected the demand. The agreement sets up a final spending bill vote by April seventeenth.

Virginia's budget died in the Senate for the third time this year on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The vote of 20-19 was a party-line vote and risks shutting down state government operations and construction projects within ten weeks. Democrats balked over funding for the Capital Beltway transit project. The senate recessed until today, giving them the opportunity to reconsider the spending plan then.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the state senate passed an unexpected two year budget plan. The eighty five billion dollar plan was passed on Wednesday just after a third budget plan was struck down on Tuesday. No one suspected that another plan was in the works and after Tuesday's proposal was struck

down and democratic officials began to discuss what would happen without the budget. This new plan came just ten and a half weeks before the deadline and now it moves on to governor McDonnell for consideration.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Governor Bob McDonnell said "There is a lot of bad news, we wanted to share some of the good news". Referring to the commonwealth's three year low in unemployment and two pieces of legislation aimed at improving Virginia's agriculture and forestry industries in the form two million dollars in loans and grants over the next two years. The new funding bridges a gap in incentives that are tied to scale and the jobs created.

Although state lawmakers rejected over two dozen of the governor's amendments to the twenty twelve to twenty fourteen budget on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor McDonnell did win an approval of a budget amendment that creates a grant program for port-related businesses. McDonnell also defeated an attempt to ensure the governor couldn't override the lopsided House vote to protect the use of some psychotropic drugs for Medicaid patients.

## **Public Education**

Greene County residents were angry at the meeting on Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, with the County Board of Supervisors. The County Schools are facing budget cuts because of a one million dollar gap but the supervisors refuse to use any of the county's sixteen million dollar reserve to help make up the difference. Residents claim that supervisors have failed to visit the schools to assess the level of need and they still expect the school to make more cuts, which may come from teacher salaries.

The school budget for Fluvanna county schools was discussed on May 8<sup>th</sup>. While the school system faces a deficit of over two million dollars officials hope to work out some kind of compromise. Officials from the county hoped to open a new high school but that project will likely be put on hold in order to keep the current schools open. The Board of Supervisors is currently discussing its options with the county's superintendent.

After students and teachers protested outside of William Monroe high school, holding signs and chanting for more support and money from the school district, they got their wish. Greene County supervisors voted early in the morning of May 9<sup>th</sup>, with results four-to-one to give the full funding to the school system. The result led to an additional one-point-two million dollars to the Greene County School Board, to bridge the budget gap that they were experiencing.

The Fluvanna County School Superintendent is calling the decision not to open the new County High School a tragedy. The newly built Fluvanna County High School, which was set to open

this fall, will instead remain closed, until the County can come up with enough new tax revenue to allow it to open. On Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors passed a real estate property tax of 60 cents per hundred dollars--less than the anticipated rate of 68 cents, and that left the school system with a deficit of one and a half million dollars, leading to the decision to keep the state-of-the-art school closed in order to save money. May 10<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Gena Keller called the decision "sickening," but necessary given the circumstances.

A rally took place the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> in Fluvanna County, being led by Focus for Fluvanna's Future. The gathering wants to support the proposal between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. They also hope to suggest to supervisors that they shift the one-point-four million dollar funding from a new 911 program to the schools. Supervisor Board Member Bob Ullenbruch, devised this idea which he says now is no longer a possibility. The rally will take place at about 5 pm, at the Central Elementary School. The Focus for Fluvanna's Future also wants to allocate money for JAUNT, and the Jefferson Board for Aging.

A proposed rezoning plan that could cost Richmond four elementary schools had the public coming out in force. More than two hundred people, in identifiable color coded clothing by favorite school, arrived at the auditorium of George Wythe High School yesterday at the first of two public hearings to be held this week. At the end of the two hour session, which had fifty one speakers pitching their case, it was very clear that no one wants the city to close the schools. The next hearing is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at six pm at John Marshall High School.

The Richmond School Board passed a new budget plan last night, but the debate may still continue. Last night's repeated arguments and votes confused even the members themselves, as Vice Chairman Maurice Henderson said quote, "I'm struggling with my own amendment." In closing a fifteen-million dollar budget gap, seven of the nine board members voted to cut at least twenty-eight non-instructional employees, while one-hundred twelve of the city's open positions, including more than sixty teaching posts, will remain un-filled. The budget also gives five furlough days to current Richmond school workers and requires a three-percent contribution to the state retirement system.

Teachers and parents in Fluvanna are continuing the fight to have funding for the county schools restored. Wednesday afternoon the Fluvanna County Board of supervisors meeting was filled with those who were there to demand a restoration of the school funds. By the end of the meeting the board agreed to give back \$650,000 which will be used to build a new high school. Despite the large number of those against the cuts, there were a few people at the meeting that supported the choices made by the board.

Faculty in Louisa County said goodbye to their high school before it is demolished in the coming weeks. Last August's earthquake made the foundation unstable, and engineers were unable to repair the building. The school board will pick an architect by the beginning of July, 2012, and construction should begin once demolition and planning are complete.

The General Assembly's top budget-writing and supervising body confronted Governor Bob McDonnell yesterday over an allegedly secret deal his administration forged with the Washington Redskins. For over an hour, members of the bipartisan House Appropriations Committee questioned Governor McDonnell and some of his senior officials on incentives they promised to the nation's second most profitable football franchise. According to Committee Chairman Lacey Putney, the Governor offered the team six-point-four million in state tax dollars to continue training in Virginia, and then completed the deal without notifying Committee members. McDonnell's Chief of Staff countered Putney's claim, but also said the move was well within the Governor's executive powers.

### **Virginia Lacrosse Murder Trial**

George Huguely is scheduled to be sentenced today, April 16<sup>th</sup> for the murder of Yeardeley Love. Huguely was convicted earlier this year, and the judge can impose a maximum of twenty six years of imprisonment. Though he claimed he did not mean to kill Love, the jury found him guilty of second degree murder and grand larceny.

Less than two months after the Huguely murder trial Sharon Love was invited to the White House as the Vice President's guest. While Sharon had been too emotional to speak after the trial she had a great deal to say on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. She shared the story of what happened to her daughter with those at the White House and spoke out against domestic violence. She promoted the Violence Against Women Act which if approved by congress would provide financial help to women in domestic violence situations.

The mother of slain University of Virginia student Yeardeley Love intends to file a wrongful death lawsuit. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, an attorney representing Love's mother appeared in Charlottesville Circuit Court asking for permission to access the evidence used in the criminal trial of lawsuit the convicted killer, George Huguely. Although it is not clear who would be named as defendants in the suit, Huguely's attorney opposed the request. A civil lawsuit would need to be filed by May 3, 2012, the two-year anniversary of Love's death.

On April 27th, Sharon Love, the mother of Yeardeley Love, filed a \$30 million civil lawsuit against George Huguely. In February, a Charlottesville Circuit Court convicted Huguely of second-degree murder. Sharon Love is asking for \$29.4 million in compensatory damages, as well as \$1 million in punitive damages plus interest. Accordingly to court papers, Huguely was aware or should have been aware his conduct would result in Yeardeley's injury or death.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> we reported that, the Charlottesville Circuit Court will allow a viewing of non-sensitive evidence from the George Huguely trial on Tuesday, May fifteenth at 9:30 am and Wednesday, May sixteenth at 1:30 pm. Included is a sixty four minute interrogation of George Huguely. The court did not allow people in the courtroom to see the evidence during the trial.

On May 3rd we reported that Sharon Love, and the estate of her daughter Yeardeley, filed a civil suit on Tuesday against UVA men's lacrosse coach Dom Starsia, assistant coach Marc Van Arsdale and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The suit follows the second anniversary of the

murder of Yeardeley Love just weeks before her graduation. The amount of the suit is not yet public. Last week Sharon Love and Yeardeley's older sister Lexie, filed a wrongful-death suit against George Hugueley for over twenty nine million dollars.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> we reported that Sharon Love, the mother of slain UVA student Yeardeley Love, filed a civil suit yesterday in Louisa County Circuit Court against two coaches of the Virginia men's lacrosse team and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the action, Love seeks damages of nearly thirty million dollars from coach Dom Sarsia and assistant coach Marc Van Arsdale for the wrongful death of her daughter. Love's mother and older sister filed a wrongful death suit last week in against the convicted killer, George Hugueley.

## **Wildfires**

As of Aril 6<sup>th</sup>, Central Virginia is under a red flag warning, which means dry conditions make fires more likely. In Fluvanna County, two vultures were electrocuted by a power line, fell to the ground, and lit two acres of brush on fire. In Skyler, a homeowner clearing land had to call the fire department after the blaze got out of control. Firefighters have contained both fires, but smoke may remain throughout the day. Further west, at least nine hundred acres are now ablaze in the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest in four separate fires.

Interstate sixty-four, as well as four other roads, were closed on April 11<sup>th</sup> due to wildfires burning over seven-thousand acres across Virginia. The Virginia Department of Forestry says that there are five large fires burning in several counties, including Shenandoah, in addition to several small fires. The Virginia Department of Transportation says that Interstate sixty-four has been closed in both directions in Rockbridge County and Alleghany County. Detours are available.

Many wildfires have been burning across Virginia since Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The largest fire is currently in Alleghany County, ten miles west of Covington. It has burned nearly seven thousand acres. Another fire in Page County has spread more than six miles long and has burned five thousand four hundred acres. Large fires are burning in Craig and Shenandoah counties as well. An estimated seventeen thousand acres have burned at this point. Road closings due to the wildfires remain on a section of Route 850 near the Alleghany- Rockbridge county line and part of Route 770 in Alleghany County.

On April 13<sup>th</sup> we reported that wildfires continue to burn in the Commonwealth. Officials from the US Forest Service report that large fires are currently burning in Alleghany, Page, Craig and Shenandoah Counties, with more than 20,000 acres burned so far--7,000 acres in just the last five days in just one fire. Currently, more than 350 firefighters from 23 states are battling the blazes.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> we reported that, firefighters are continuing to fight the fire around the "Haunter Monster Museum" in Natural Bridge. The fire is thought to be 90% contained - it grew to almost 20 acres and firefighters hope to have the blaze fully contained by this evening. Investigators are trying to figure out the cause of the fire, the local attraction suffered serious damages.

Beginning at eight-thirty the morning of May 15<sup>th</sup>, so-labeled "non-sensitive" evidence from the murder trial of George Huguely will be on display to reporters and the general public at the Charlottesville Circuit Court. A presentation of the material begins at nine-thirty, and spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Among the items are photos of the crime scene that do not show Yeardeley Love's body, an hour-long videotape of Huguely's statement to police, and some communications Huguely exchanged with Love and other women. No copying, recording, or electronic devices will be permitted. A second viewing is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> at one-thirty in the afternoon.

Evidence went on display May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Charlottesville District Court, where George Huguely was sentenced to twenty six years in prison for the murder of Yeardeley Love. In two hours members of the public were able to view non-sensitive material that was used in the trial including Huguely's hour long interrogation tape, about two hundred pictures, and email and text messages. The message exchanges were never read allowed in court, instead copies were handed to jurors. Although the court was open to members of the public, the vast majority were from the media.

Last week, the defense for George Hugelley attempted to have the guilty verdict overturned and on Wednesday, while the verdict was not overturned, they did have some success. Huguely's new lawyers from Richmond have requested a change of venue. The defense claims this is a necessary move as Yeardeley Love's mother and sister are currently filing a civil suit against the defendant.

### **Morgan Harrington**

On June 4<sup>th</sup> we reported that an organization called Help Save the Next Girl published the official FBI sketch of Morgan Harrington's suspected killer. The sketch is available on the organization's website and Facebook page. Harrington was abducted outside of a Metallica concert at John Paul Jones Arena in two thousand nine. Her body was later found on a farm in Albemarle County. Help Save the Next Girl was started by Harrington's parents to protect and empower young women in the hopes of preventing similar abductions.

In a new development in the years-old murder of Morgan Dana Harrington, authorities have released two new composite sketches of the prime suspect. Virginia State Police worked with the FBI field office of DC to create the images, and they are based on a victim report from 2005—a case of sexual assault that has been forensically linked to the Harrington case. As part of an upcoming multimedia publicity campaign, the sketches will appear on billboards and on sidewalks and doorsteps, as volunteers will canvass parts of Albemarle County. Gil Harrington, Morgan's mother, says quote, "If you are one of those who has had some suspicions...don't filter, call the police."

The Help Save the Next Girl Organization spent the weekend handing out sketches of Morgan Harrington's suspected killer in Albemarle County. Harrington's parents run the group, and say that whoever killed their daughter knew the area well. They will continue spreading flyers and tip cards throughout the summer, trying to cover as much ground as possible to try to catch the suspect in the case

Nearly four years later, Charlottesville officials are still doing what they can to bring Morgan Harrington's killer to justice. The Virginia State police and the FBI have teamed up to put the face of the man they believe to be behind the murder out to the public. Public service announcements are being drafted along with the digital billboards that are being put up all across the east coast.

### **Bomb Threats**

A building in the Fontaine Research Park was evacuated on April 12th after a bomb threat. Albemarle County Police say that an electronic message to employees indicated that a bomb might have been placed at 560 Ray C. Hunt Drive. Bomb dogs were brought in to search the building, which houses two investment related organizations, the CFA Institute and UVA Investment Management, and the buildings were closed for the rest of the day. Nothing suspicious was found and the building is open as usual today.

On Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> we reported that, Louisa County Police are looking for a woman suspected of calling in bomb threats. Danielle Messineo failed to appear in court in connection with making a bomb threat to the courthouse, and made threats at the courthouses in Culpeper and Orange Counties to avoid appearing for charges there. There is no indication she intends to act on the threats, but police are seeking any information that will lead to her arrest.

Authorities are investigating two bomb threats made hours apart on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Fluvanna County and Monticello High Schools. The first report came around noon when a staff member at Fluvanna County High School received a note that indicated a bomb would go off at the school. Students were evacuated and parents were allowed to pick up their children. By around 2 p.m. everything was deemed safe after search dogs were taken through the building and no explosives were found. At 1:47 p.m. Monticello High School office received an anonymous call that there was a bomb inside the school. Students and staff were evacuated and County police investigated the school for explosive devices. All after school programs have been cancelled today and Mill Creek Drive is closed due to the bomb threat.

A woman who is wanted for making bomb threats to courthouses was arrested on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>. Thirty eight year old Danielle Messineo is accused of calling in the threats to three different courthouses on days she was scheduled to appear. Louisa County Police credited the community for giving tips that caught Messineo.

### **Virginia Tech Civil Suit**

On April 6<sup>th</sup> we reported that attorneys for the parents who won the wrongful death lawsuit of two Virginia Tech students have asked the court to award each family two million dollars. The money would come from a liability coverage plan for the official actions of state workers. The state is asking the judge to honor the one hundred thousand dollar cap on damages. The state wrote in its filing quote "...no applicable 'liability policy' exists with maximum limits in excess of one hundred thousand dollars." The jury was unaware of the cap during deliberations and awarded the families of Julia K Pryde and Erin N Peterson each four million dollars.

Today, April 16<sup>th</sup> marks the fifth anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings, where Seung-Hui Cho killed thirty two people and himself. The school recently won a federal appeal against fines for reacting too slowly to the shootings. Students will hold a vigil on campus to commemorate those killed in the attack.

On May 2nd we reported that, the Commonwealth filed a motion today to have a judge set aside a negligence verdict that was recently given in regards to the Virginia Tech massacre. In March, jurors ruled that Virginia Tech could have prevented the death of two students, had the university responded to the April 2007 shooting sooner. With the decision the jury awarded the families of the two students eight million dollars, with the damages being capped at one-hundred-thousand dollars per family. Now lawyers on behalf of the state are arguing that the jury's decision is not supported by the evidence given during the trial. The attorneys want the judge to rule for the state.

## 2012 Election

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Democrat Tim Kaine announced he has raised \$2.2 million in his first-quarter fundraising in his Virginia U.S. Senate race. The former governor reported in his filings to the Federal Election Commission that his campaign had \$4.4 million on hand at the end of March. Kaine is the lone Democratic qualifier in a race to keep the seat of Senator Jim Webb. Webb said last year he will not seek a second term. Four Republicans are fighting for the GOP nomination. They are George Allen, who lost the seat to Webb in 2006, Delegate Bob Marshall; tea party leader Jamie Radtke; and Chesapeake pastor E.W. Jackson.

On April 9th democratic rival for the 5th district, John Douglass visited Charlottesville's town hall meeting and on April 10<sup>th</sup>, Republican Congressman Robert Hurt spent the morning at R.A. Yancey's Lumber Corporation. Hurt said his intentions are to carry back to Washington what he had learned in Charlottesville today and he commiserated with employees and the owners of Yancey's Lumber over the price of gas. Meanwhile, Democrat John Douglas weighed in on the meeting Monday to understand the issues most pressing in Charlottesville and the surrounding areas.

On April 19<sup>th</sup> Governor McDonnell announced he wants to change voting legislation to require voters who do not present identification at polls on Election Day to cast provisional ballots. The change eliminates a provision that allows voters without identification to cast votes if poll workers recognize them. House Bill 9 and Senate Bill 1 also expand the list of acceptable forms of identification. Members of Virginia New Majority and other liberal groups have delivered online petitions signed by more than six thousand people asking the governor to veto the bills. The governor signed the House bill.

Liberty University has announced on April 19<sup>th</sup>, that Mitt Romney will deliver the commencement address at this year's graduation. This will mark Governor Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee for the Presidency's first visit to the Lynchburg School.

The May 12th speech will add Romney to a list of other famous politicians who have come to

the school, including Ronald Reagan in 1980 and George H. W. Bush in 1990. School officials say that nearly 50,000 are expected to be on campus for graduation.

Charlottesville Democrats gathered on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> to decide delegates for the Fifth District Congressional race. John Douglass, a retired air force general from Fauquier County, was chosen as the top candidate, followed by Peyton Williams, a Charlottesville engineer. Whoever wins the caucuses will face off against Republican Robert Hurt in November.

Final results are in for the fifth district Democratic caucus, revealing John Douglass as the victor. Douglass won twenty-seven delegates to his opponent's, Peyton Williams, seven at the Albemarle County Office building on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, adding to his thirteen-delegate win in the Charlottesville caucus. And though Douglass has won most of the two-hundred twenty-five threshold needed for nomination, Williams has not conceded, and he plans to be at the May convention in Lovingsston. Douglass still hopes for a concession, which would help the Democrats present a united front against Robert Hurt in the general election this fall. Officials for President Obama released information on April 25<sup>th</sup> about future campaign stops. According to the release the president and the first lady will be attending a rally on the VCU campus on May 5th. Many of the president's campaign offices across Virginia have reopened to bring in more voters in lieu of the upcoming election as Obama won Virginia by a six percent margin in 2008.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Bob McDonnell addressed questions about his chances as a potential running mate for presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. McDonnell said quote- ""My plate is full. When you've got the same job held by Thomas Jefferson it doesn't get much better than that." –endquote. Political observers have speculated that recent advertisements describing the positive economic state of the commonwealth under McDonnell were an indirect appeal to Republican decision makers. Although McDonnell has downplayed his interest in the position, McDonnell has never ruled out a run for the vice presidency if asked.

Charlottesville Democratic Congressional Candidate Peyton Williams has dropped out of the fifth district race. Williams conceded to John Douglass on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in a press release. He wrote that he wanted to unify the party with Douglass and promised to support him in the upcoming election in November.

On May 3rd we reported that the presidential battle for Virginia will continue over the next few days. According to the schedule, Romney will host an event today with governor McDonnell in Portsmouth. There is a rumor floating around that McDonnell is on Romney's list of choices for vice president. On Tuesday, President Obama's campaign released an ad that will be played in the critical swing states. The ad claims that Romney aided in the process of shipping jobs overseas. Romney's campaign spokeswoman responded that the ad is Obama's attempt to quote "distract Americans from the real issues."

On May 3rd we reported that the then presumptive Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney made an appearance in Portsmouth, Virginia with Governor Bob McDonnell. Romney said, "This may well be the state that decides who the next president is". Governor McDonnell

downplayed questions about being Romney's running mate. President Obama was the first Democrat since nineteen sixty four to win Virginia's thirteen electoral votes.

On May 4th a survey of Virginia voters shows President Obama with a seven point lead over rival Mitt Romney. The poll, conducted by the Washington Post shows that Obama garners support of 51 percent of registered voters, with Romney taking 44 percent. Among African Americans, 97 percent say they plan to support the President in November's election. Obama won Virginia in 2008, the first win for a Democrat since 1968.

On May 7th President Obama kicked off his reelection campaign with rallies in Ohio and Virginia, key battleground states for the election in November. He took shots at rival Mitt Romney, saying he wanted to quote turn back the clock. Obama himself has said he will have trouble winning if unemployment is over eight percent by the time of the election, and it is slightly above that level now. Economic issues are likely to dominate the race.

The latest poll which closed on Monday revealed that attorney General Ken Cuccinelli still holds the lead for the position of governor. The poll was open for five days and revealed that Cuccinelli had a three to one lead over Lt. Governor Bill Bolling. The poll also revealed that Governor McDonnell still has an approval rating of over fifty percent.

The latest polls show that President Obama continues to lead his Republican rival Mitt Romney among Virginia voters. In a survey conducted by Quinnipiac University, the President was ahead of Governor Romney by five percentage points. Other findings from the poll were that Romney had a slight lead with male voters, while Obama had wide leads with women and independents.

Virginia's Republican Primary finished with few surprises and modest turnout. House Majority leader Eric Cantor maintained his place on the ballot, and George Allen is now prepared to try to retake his old senate seat. In the sixth district, Bob Goodlatte easily clinched the primary, now he faces democrat Andy Schmookler in the November elections.

### **UVA President Theresa Sullivan Resignation**

University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan announced she would step down from her post by mid August, citing philosophical differences with the Board of Visitors. Sullivan is the University's eighth president and only served for two years. Governor Bob McDonnell issued a statement that praised her contributions and asked the Board of Visitors to conduct a thorough search for her successor.

In the wake of her surprising decision to step down, UVA President Teresa Sullivan has left Charlottesville. The Board of Visitors announced the change June 11, 2012 via a campus-wide e-mail, and the school's Faculty Senate Executive Council is angered by what they describe as a blindside. In a lengthy statement released yesterday afternoon, the Faculty Senate calls the Board's statement unsatisfactory and demands a more complete explanation for the departure of

one they characterize as an optimistic leader. So far, the eighteen members of the board have not offered reasons underlying the termination.

Many in the UVA community are concerned that the recent decision to dismiss President Sullivan could create a rift between faculty and the board. A letter was composed by a group of faculty members that reminded the board of visitors that the nation is watching their decisions and it could deeply affect the future of the university. Former President Casteen said it would be beneficial for the two parties to work out their differences, but it seems that no one knows just what those differences are.

In an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon, UVA's Faculty Senate Executive Council officially announced its unanimous support of President Sullivan and its attendant lack of faith in the school's Board of Visitors. Sullivan's husband and attorney, Douglas Laycock, says they were quote "absolutely caught off guard" last weekend when the Board decided to terminate her contract. He adds that Dr. Sullivan is busy with meetings in DC and is not yet ready to issue a statement. Meanwhile, Peter Kiernan, Chairman of the Darden School's Foundation Board of Trustees, resigned last evening after leaked e-mails revealed his prior knowledge of the decision and the personal motivations underlying his related actions.

The University of Virginia's Faculty Senate passed a vote of no confidence in the Board of Visitors in response to President Sullivan's sudden dismissal. The Faculty leaders will hold a meeting with the board this morning at 9 to deliver their decision. Former President Casteen is taking a similar stand, going as far as to write Governor McDonnell in protest. The board is holding a special meeting in the Rotunda at 3pm today to discuss the situation.

After an eleven-hour session that ended early this morning, UVA's governing Board of Visitors has named an interim president in Carl Zeithaml, the current Dean of the McIntire School of Commerce. Thorny controversy continues to surround the termination of former President Teresa Sullivan, and many are unhappy that the Board allows their questions to linger. Thousands gathered yesterday on the Lawn in silent protest, but Rector Helen Dragas continues to explain the decision obliquely as a confidential administrative matter. Meanwhile, Doctor Sullivan has issued her first official statement on the matter in which she discusses the UVA's sense of community: she says that trust depends on open communication of disagreements and that quote "no matter how accomplished he or she may be, a president cannot read minds."

The University of Virginia Board of Visitors announced this morning that Carl Zeithaml has been chosen as the new interim president. Zeithaml has served as the dean of the McIntire School of Commerce for the past 15 years, but on August 16th he will become the official interim president of UVA. Zeithaml has said he has taken the position because he loves UVA and he wants it to heal and he wants to work with colleagues to build on the work of President Sullivan. Zeithaml is concerned about retaining the faculty and staff of the university and is looking forward to meeting the faculty, staff, students, alumni, community leaders and all the friends of the university.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Bill Wulf, a former University of Virginia computer science professor, is announcing the official reason why he's retiring. He says quote "It's the board of visitors that's

hurting the university. They're what caused me to resign, and probably are going to make other people resign, too. What's there now is all lawyers, and corporate executives. They've got this mistaken impression that you govern a university the same way you govern a corporation. And you can't." Wulf's resignation comes after half a century of teaching at the university.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, ousted former UVa President Teresa Sullivan released a statement asking for calm today. The statement praised free speech and passionate debate but criticized the defacing of the Rotunda with graffiti. She also called for her supporters to end verbal abuse of the acting president, his family and the Board of Visitors.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, about fifteen hundred people gathered on the University of Virginia's lawn to show their support for ousted President Teresa Sullivan. Many also called on the board of visitors for greater transparency, after Sullivan was asked to resign without warning. Governor Bob McDonnell released a statement Friday that said if a resolution was not reached at the meeting this Tuesday, the entire board will be replaced.

The University of Virginia Board of Visitors announced they will meet on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss ousted President Teresa Sullivan's contract. Sullivan herself sent a message to the UVa community asking for calm and civility in the wake of the vandalization of the Rotunda. Rector Helen Dragas released a statement as well in an attempt to clarify the board's reason for the dismissal. Former Governor Tim Kaine, who appointed half the board, also weighed in, calling for Sullivan's reinstatement.

UVA's Board of Visitors convened on June 26<sup>th</sup> as it attempts to negotiate a course through the tempestuous waters of controversy. The Board has drawn heated criticism for the recent dismissal of President Teresa Sullivan, and at three PM this afternoon, its members will gather to discuss and vote on the forced resignation and possible reinstatement. Members Mac Caputo, Tim Robertson, and Hunter Craig called for the meeting, and sources believe they would not have done so without confidence in securing the necessary eight-of-fifteen votes for reinstatement. The meeting takes place at the Rotunda and is open to the public. The school's Faculty Senate plans a two-thirty rally in support of Sullivan, and it urges the UVA community to help them quote "fill the lawn with grace and dignity."

On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Board of Visitors unanimously voted to reinstate ousted President Theresa Sullivan. The fifteen person board made the decision following weeks of outcries and protests from the UVa Community of faculty, staff, and students. During today's board meeting thousands of protestors gathered on the UVa Lawn to support the reinstatement of Theresa Sullivan. Sullivan has yet to publicly comment on today's decision.

Teresa Sullivan has released a statement accepting the reinstatement of her position as President of the University of Virginia. In her address she acknowledges the difficulties faced by the university over the past 16 days, but says she will work hand-in-hand with Rector Dragas and all the members of the Board of Visitors to face the challenges ahead. Sullivan writes that she wants to harness the enthusiasm that has been generated over the past two weeks and use it to the University's competitive advantage. Sullivan believes that the challenges faced have propelled

the academic community at UVA to a new place and have made it ready to face the changes ahead.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> we reported that Governor McDonnell is taking his time in making a decision regarding the UVA Board of visitors. He has released a statement saying he will announce the new candidates for the board only after the current term ends. In a meeting with Sullivan and Dragas on Tuesday, the governor praised the board on the way things were handled following his threat to fire the board. The governor acknowledged that many people will have opinions on what should be done at the end of the term and that they are welcome to make those suggestions.

After the recent reinstatement UVA President Sullivan, the school is receiving huge donations. One million will go to AccessUVA, a financial aid program, and another million to a department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Several of these gifts are from anonymous donors, and most of them came with expressions of support for Sullivan.

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:

- The 'Buy Local' concept with guests from Cash Mob Charlottesville and UVa Prof of Economics Leora Freidberg
- Modern Stereotypes – discussed w/ two from a local play on the topic and UVa *Gender & Race Studies* Prof. Hamilton.
- Muzzle Awards w/ Josh Wheeler from Thomas Jefferson Center for Protection of Free Expression
- Personal privacy in the modern world w/ UVA Professor Siva Vaidhyanathan, author '*The Googlization of Everything*'
- Teen Alcohol abuse and a recent Underage Drinking Forum w/ UVA Teen Health Center community director Mary Sullivan and Region Ten Prevention Director Lori Wood
- Single Parenting and the changing nature of families w/ Staff from local Children, Youth & Family Services.
- Current discussion of the Rt. 29 Western Bypass w/ Charlottesville Tomorrow's Sean Tubbs.
- Summer Reading and the importance of our libraries w/ 3 members of Jefferson Madison Regional Libraries and local bookstore owner Sandy MacAdams
- UVa Prof Tim Wilson explains making changes in everyday life through his book, *Redirect: The Surprising New Science of Psychological Change*.
- Local auto technicians answer questions about car problems
- Participants discuss the recent 'Start-Up Weekend', held to assist entrepreneurs and their projects.
- Area newspaper editors discuss the events surrounding the resignation of UVa President Theresa Sullivan and the backlash from students, faculty and alumni

Rick Moore

WNRN Public Affairs Director

June, 2012

C -- PSA report for Q2 of 2012

As of 04/01/12

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Salvation Army Food            | TFN      |
| Science Museum of Virginia     | 06/01/12 |
| Community Dental Center        | TFN      |
| Arts Council of the Valley     | 04/06/12 |
| Amazement Square of Lynchburg  | 04/07/12 |
| Blueridge Home Builders Assoc. | 04/20/12 |

As of 04/03/12

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Child Abuse Prevention Month       | 04/30/12 |
| Monticello garden workshop         | 04/14/12 |
| University of Virginia Intramurals | 04/17/12 |

As of 04/05/12

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Blue Ledge Meals of Wheels for Amherst and Nelson | 05/06/12 |
| Piedmont Housing Alliance                         | 04/10/12 |

As of 04/17/12

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Literacy volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle | 05/18/12 |
| Virginia Institute of Autism                     | 04/21/12 |

As of 04/26/12

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Writerhouse | 05/05/12 |
|-------------|----------|

As of 04/30/12

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Historic Staunton Foundation | 09/30/12 |
|------------------------------|----------|

As of 05/01/12

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | 05/05/12 |
| City Schoolyard Gardens               | 05/12/12 |
| UVA Art Museum                        | 05/10/12 |

As of 5/09/12

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Look 3                          | 06/09/12 |
| Endstation Theater, Sweet Briar | 05/15/12 |

As of 5/14/12

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Writerhouse                        | 06/14/12 |
| Jefferson Madison Regional Library | 05/24/12 |
| Dance for Winneba                  | 05/19/12 |
| Appalachian Voices                 | 06/21/12 |

As of 5/15/12

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Lynchburg Daily Bread | TFN |
|-----------------------|-----|

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Meals on Wheels-Charlottesville       | 06/30/12 |
| As of 5/21/12                         |          |
| Rivanna Conservation Society          | 06/02/12 |
| Camp Holiday Trails                   | 06/06/12 |
| As of 6/5/12                          |          |
| Alzheimer's Association               | 10/13/12 |
| As of 6/15/12                         |          |
| Jazz in the Park, Staunton            | 08/30/12 |
| As of 6/20/12                         |          |
| Waynesboro parks and rec`             | 07/07/12 |
| As of 6/21/12                         |          |
| Writerhouse – Science Fiction reading | 07/26/12 |
| Writerhouse – seminars                | 6/30/12  |
| Fluvanna SPCA –fostering              | 07/14/12 |
| Fluvanna SPCA – volunteering          | 07/21/12 |