

THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

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Serving Burleith, Foxhall, Georgetown, Georgetown Reservoir & Glover Park

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TREACHEROUS WATERS



Brian Kapur/The Current

The Fat and Greasy Citizens Brigade, a local outdoor theatre troupe, opened its production of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" on Thursday at Grace Episcopal Church. The show will repeat June 16, 17, 18, 23 and 24.

White, Todd win D.C. Council seats

By **BRADY HOLT**
Current Staff Writer

Throughout this year's primary race, a number of D.C. Council candidates were focused on Mayor Muriel Bowser, seeking to paint the race, in part, as a referendum on her first 18 months in office.

If Democratic voters indeed accepted that premise, then Bowser's tenure got a rebuke from voters in several races, as three

incumbents allied with the mayor fell behind their challengers. According to preliminary primary election results, Brandon Todd, her former constituent services director, won in Ward 4, but at-large member Vincent Orange lost to Robert White, Ward 7's Yvette Alexander lost to former Mayor Vincent Gray and Ward 8's LaRuby May lost to Trayon White.

At the national level, meanwhile, Hillary Clinton beat out

Bernie Sanders in the final race of the Democratic presidential primary, 78 percent to 21 percent, out of 97,821 votes cast. (D.C. Republicans had voted for Marco Rubio in March, shortly before he suspended his campaign.)

The Democratic primary winners are expected to face minimal opposition in the general election.

In the at-large race, Orange lost the Democratic nomination for the See **Election**/Page 5

Burleith to consider historic designation

By **MARK LIEBERMAN**
Current Staff Writer

The small residential neighborhood of Burleith, just north of Georgetown, is at a crossroads, residents say. Students from the nearby university are moving out, and investors are taking notice. The community is divided on how to move forward, but some believe more protections might be necessary to preserve the neighborhood's historic character.

Following up on an initial discussion in February, the Burleith Citizens Association will explore the possibility of historic designation for the neighborhood at a town hall meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the S&R Foundation Studios, 1801 35th St. NW.

Historic districts have stronger protections on pop-ups and other front-facing development than neighborhoods without that classification. In particular, changes to anything visible from the street or other public areas receive design scrutiny for compatibility



Brian Kapur/The Current

Some residents worry that development could harm the quiet character of Burleith's streets.

with the area's historic character.

The citizens association first explored the feasibility of creating a Burleith historic district in 2005,

See **Burleith**/Page 3

Nationals star pitches reading to D.C. kids

By **GEORGE ALTSHULER**
Current Correspondent

Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg kicked off the D.C. Public Library's summer reading program Monday at Hearst Elementary School in North Cleveland Park, where he read to students and described his affinity for esoteric books about baseball.

As part of the library's summer program, all children over the age of 5 who reach summer reading goals will win two tickets to a Nationals game. The team is donating the tickets as part of a three-year \$750,000 commitment to the library announced last year.

The library's program aims to address the loss of learning that children can experience over the summer, commonly referred to as the "summer slide."



Brian Kapur/The Current

Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg read to Hearst Elementary School students Monday to open the D.C. Public Library's summer reading program.

Richard Reyes-Gavilan, executive director of the library system, said in an interview that students typically fall behind "two to three months" worth of learning if they don't read over the summer.

"That achievement gap tends to perpetuate itself, so you get kids outpacing other kids," he said. "The See **Reading**/Page 12

Debate begins on aspects of proposed state constitution

By **CUNEYD DIL**
Current Correspondent

The District's latest effort to become the 51st state moved another step forward on Monday night in Anacostia, as residents chimed in on the draft constitution Mayor Muriel Bowser released last month.

At the event, which Bowser's administration advertised as the first night of a constitutional convention, residents — wearing lanyards noting themselves as "delegates" — proposed tweaks to the proposed legislative branch and the name of the state. A number of

residents pushed for a name other than one honoring Christopher Columbus; "Douglass Commonwealth," after 19th-century abolitionist and D.C. resident Frederick Douglass, emerged as a popular alternative.

Out of the about 50 residents seated inside a government agency building, many favored a larger, bicameral state legislature. The draft constitution, written by legal advisers, proposes retaining many key institutions of the District government, including the city's current 13-member legislative body.

The Anacostia event was the See **Statehood**/Page 18

SHERWOOD

Life, liberty and death

Orlando's massacre recalls a history — and present reality — of civil rights struggles / Page 6

SPORTS

Palisades slugger

Visitation firstbaseman captures the D.C. Gatorade softball player of the year award / Page 9



GETTING AROUND

Electric car charging

Some Northwest EV owners are struggling to find a spot to plug in their vehicles / Page 18

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Tips? Contact us at newsdesk@currentnewspapers.com

BURLEITH: Residents mull methods to prevent unwanted development in neighborhood

From Page 1

according to Lenore Rubino, the group's Historic Designation Committee co-chair. At the time, the possibility of up to \$35,000 in application fees was "prohibitive," she said in an interview.

But within the past year, some neighbors began to express concerns about a spate of redevelopments that brought increased height and density to the community's historic row homes.

"We've heard from quite a few residents at this point about being unsettled by the redevelopments," citizens association president Eric Langenbacher told The Current.

And the historic designation process would now cost closer to \$25,000, thanks to a now-completed Historic Preservation Office project to catalog individual homes in an online database, which the citizens association would have had to do itself a decade ago.

One impetus for the change stems from

the Georgetown University campus plan, according to the association. As the university created more on-campus housing for students, more properties in Burleith opened up, and investors took a renewed interest in the neighborhood. That trend seems likely to continue, as Georgetown just last week approved an early draft of its 2017-2037 campus plan calling for continued investment in housing options that get students out of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Upon noticing the effects of this trend,

Rubino's committee last year first explored the possibility of zoning challenges, but current zoning regulations permit all of the development that has taken place so far. And new zoning regulations going into effect later this fall discourage zoning overlays, which have previously helped neighborhoods manage maximum height.

Applying for a historic district proved the most viable remaining option to consider, Rubino said, noting that her committee

See **Burleith**/Page 4

The week ahead

Wednesday, June 15

The D.C. State Board of Education will hold its monthly public meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. The agenda will include a vote on a report from the board's Student Advisory Committee and a presentation from four national education policy experts on potential accountability measures for schools that go beyond test scores.

■ The D.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting to kick off the Downtown West Transportation Planning Study, which aims to improve east-west travel for cyclists, pedestrians and buses along Pennsylvania Avenue NW between 17th Street and Washington Circle and along H and I streets NW between New York and Pennsylvania avenues. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room A-5, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW.

■ The D.C. Public Library will hold a community meeting on the Cleveland Park Library construction project, with the design team sharing new interior renderings and project updates. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW.

■ The Georgetown Business Association will hold a 40th anniversary party from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at The Rosewood Hotel, 1050 31st St. NW. Association members are asked to make reservations at rspv@georgetownbusiness.org; others can find details on buying a ticket at georgetownbusiness.org.

■ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4900 Connecticut Ave. NW, will host a Prayer Service for the People of Orlando at 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 16

The Burleith Citizens Association will host a town hall meeting on the pros and cons of designation of the Burleith neighborhood as a historic district. The meeting will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the new S&R Foundation Studios (formerly the Fillmore/Corcoran School), 1801 35th St. NW.

■ The Metropolitan Police Department's 4th District Citizens Advisory Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the 4th District Headquarters, 6001 Georgia Ave. NW. Speakers will include D.C. Department of Public Works director Christopher Shorter and a Metropolitan Police Department representative in charge of the body camera program.

Friday, June 17

The New Columbia Statehood Commission will convene the second day of the constitutional convention. The event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. at Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW.

Saturday, June 18

The New Columbia Statehood Commission will convene the final day of the constitutional convention. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW.

■ The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of General Services will host the first community design workshop and visioning session for the Hearst Park and Pool project. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon under a tent on the tennis courts at Hearst Park, 3950 37th St. NW.

■ The Burleith Citizens Association will host its annual picnic from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the park at Whitehaven Parkway and 37th Street NW. The event will include live music from the Danny Meyer Band, a "Top Dog" contest, a petting zoo, face painting, barbecue and drinks.

Tuesday, June 21

The D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations will hold its monthly assembly meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Old Council Chamber, One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW. Ronald King of the D.C. Department of Health will discuss what the District is doing to address the mosquito population and the Zika virus.

Wednesday, June 22

The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of General Services will hold a community meeting to present a proposed concept for the Palisades Recreation Center modernization based on community feedback, agency recommendations and historic preservation requirements. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Palisades Recreation Center, 5200 Sherier Place NW.

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POLICE REPORT

This is a listing of incidents reported to the Metropolitan Police Department from June 6 through 12 in local police service areas, sorted by their report dates.

PSA 203

■ FOREST HILLS / VAN NESS CLEVELAND PARK

Burglary

■ 3500-3599 block, Connecticut Ave.; 5:58 p.m. June 7.

Motor vehicle theft

■ 4900-4949 block, Linnean Ave.; 11:29 a.m. June 6.

Theft

■ 3100-3299 block, Newark St.; 3:09 p.m. June 10.

Theft from auto

■ 3600-3699 block, Albemarle St.; 3:37 a.m. June 6.

PSA 204

■ MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS / CLEVELAND PARK WOODLEY PARK / GLOVER PARK / CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS

Burglary

■ 3600-3699 block, Woodley Road; 8:57 a.m. June 9.

Motor vehicle theft

■ 2500-2599 block, 41st St.; 7:16 p.m. June 6.

Theft

■ 2600-2649 block, Connecticut Ave.; 2:57 p.m. June 6.

■ 3900-4099 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 8:29 p.m. June 6.

■ 2900-3099 block, Cathedral Ave.; 8:20 a.m. June 7.

■ 2200-2274 block, Cathedral Ave.; 10:58 a.m. June 9.

■ 2600-2649 block, Connecticut Ave.; 5:42 p.m. June 9.

■ 2700-2799 block, 29th St.; 8:23 a.m. June 10.

■ 2600-2649 block, Connecticut Ave.; 12:21 p.m. June 11.

■ 2600-2649 block, Connecticut Ave.; 12:42 p.m. June 11.

■ 2600-2699 block, Woodley Road; 3:50 p.m. June 11.

Theft from auto

■ 2800-2809 block, 36th St.; 8:51 a.m. June 7.

■ 4000-4299 block, Cathedral Ave.; 9:27 a.m. June 7.

■ 2800-2899 block, New Mexico Ave.; 1:59 p.m. June 8.

■ 3600-3691 block, Calvert St.; 6:45 p.m. June 10.

■ 3000-3199 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 3:26 p.m. June 12.

PSA 205

■ PALISADES / SPRING VALLEY WESLEY HEIGHTS / FOXHALL

Theft

■ 5210-5299 block, Loughboro Road; 3:11 p.m. June 6.

■ 5300-5323 block, MacArthur Blvd.; 9:32 a.m. June 7.

■ 2700-2711 block, Foxhall Road; 11:57 a.m. June 10.

■ 4200-4399 block, Embassy Park Drive; 12:11 p.m. June 11.

■ 4585-4699 block, MacArthur Blvd.; 9:56 a.m. June 12.

■ 5000-5099 block, Fulton St.; 3:06 p.m. June 12.

Theft from auto

■ 4500-4599 block, Macomb St.; 5:15 p.m. June 9.

PSA 206

■ GEORGETOWN / BURLEITH

Robbery

■ 2300-2599 block, P St.; 10:54 p.m. June 9.

Burglary

■ 1000-1039 block, Potomac St.; 5:46 a.m. June 7.

■ 1200-1226 block, 30th St.; 8:08 a.m. June 7.

Theft

■ 3000-3099 block, Cambridge Place; 8:53 a.m. June 6.

■ 3100-3199 block, M St.; 11:50 a.m. June 6.

■ 1224-1299 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 7:36 p.m. June 6.

■ 3000-3049 block, M St.; 6:39 p.m. June 8.

■ 3200-3299 block, S St.; 9:53 p.m. June 8.

■ 3100-3199 block, M St.; 2:23 a.m. June 9.

■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 10:04 p.m. June 9.

■ 3400-3599 block, Water St.; 8:57 p.m. June 10.

Theft from auto

■ 1655-1679 block, 32nd St.; 10 p.m. June 6.

■ 2700-2799 block, Q St.; 2:13 p.m. June 7.

■ 2700-2799 block, Q St.; 6:06 p.m. June 7.

■ 3600-3699 block, Reservoir Road; 7:59 a.m. June 8.

■ 1000-1199 block, 30th St.; 10:55 a.m. June 9.

■ 3100-3199 block, N St.; 12:42 a.m. June 10.

■ 1200-1237 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 2:52 a.m. June 10.

■ 3100-3199 block, N St.; 12:27 p.m. June 10.

■ 1200-1225 block, 28th St.; 3:58 p.m. June 12.

PSA 207

■ FOGGY BOTTOM / WEST END

Robbery

■ 900-923 block, 26th St.; 4:54 a.m. June 11.

■ 1400-1433 block, K St.; 10:05 p.m. June 11.

Assault with a dangerous weapon

■ 1000-1099 block, 26th St.; 6:25 a.m. June 11 (with knife).

Burglary

■ 2400-2499 block, I St.; 12:56 a.m. June 6.

■ 1100-1199 block, 15th St.; 12:35 p.m. June 8.

Motor vehicle theft

■ 1400-1499 block, I St.; 11:37 a.m. June 12.

Theft

■ 1100-1199 block, Vermont Ave.; 5:02 p.m. June 6.

■ 1400-1433 block, K St.; 10:34 p.m. June 7.

■ 800-899 block, 21st St.; 5:04 a.m. June 9.

■ 1700-1799 block, De Sales St.; 11:20 a.m. June 9.

■ 2200-2299 block, I St.; 3 p.m. June 9.

■ 1800-1899 block, K St.; 3:40 p.m. June 9.

■ 900-999 block, 17th St.; 8 p.m. June 9.

■ 2000-2099 block, K St.; 8:22 p.m. June 9.

■ 2300-2499 block, E St.; 3:16 p.m. June 11.

Theft from auto

■ 900-1010 block, 24th St.; 2:26 a.m. June 6.

■ 2300-2399 block, N St.; 6:29 p.m. June 9.

■ 2100-2199 block, I St.; 4:32 p.m. June 10.

■ 2100-2199 block, Pennsylvania Ave.; 8:45 p.m. June 10.

■ 1100-1199 block, 18th St.; 1:01 p.m. June 12.

■ 1600-1699 block, K St.; 4:40 p.m. June 12.

■ 1900-1999 block, M St.; 9:55 p.m. June 12.

BURLEITH: Community to consider historic district

From Page 3

tee isn't necessarily for or against the possibility — but simply exploring the pros and cons at this point.

The association has already heard from residents worried that such designation would prevent them from making desired changes to their homes. Langenbacher and his colleagues plan to dispel such concerns. "It's a way of managing the overall look of the community and letting the community have a say, without really placing a lot of restrictions, as nationally designated districts do," Historic Designation Committee co-chair Carol Baume said.

The city currently contains 32 neighborhoods designated historic, according to Office of Planning spokesperson Edward Giefer. The application process can take more than a year, he said. Most recently, the city awarded historic designation to Grant Circle in Ward 4 and expanded the designation area for Capitol Hill in 2015. Burleith has never applied for historic designation before, Giefer said.

"Well-documented applications backed up with significant community outreach and broad community support will result in designations if the case has been made that the neighborhood meets the designation criteria," Giefer said. "Proposals that do not receive broad community support generally do not

lead to applications for designation."

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E (Georgetown, Burleith) member Ed Solomon told The Current he's intrigued by the prospect of historic designation for Burleith. He also wants to assure concerned residents that the process would not place as many restrictions as are currently in place in Georgetown, which were established by Congress prior to the adoption of local preservation regulations.

"I believe that more education has to be done in the community to let people know what's involved in Burleith becoming a historic district," Solomon said. "What they know now is what they see in Georgetown. This would be a little different."

Baume notes that new restrictions would focus on what's visible from the street — generally not affecting construction and additions in the rear of homes.

The citizens association aims to set the community feedback process in motion quickly, as the neighborhood's high proportion of rentals means more investor activity could be incoming. Another community meeting in September will follow the one on Thursday, and the association is currently accepting monetary donations for the effort.

"We really do want to hear people's concerns so we can address them and find out answers for them so they can make an informed decision," Baume said.