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# CONNECTION

## Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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# Suffragist Memorial Construction Makes Progress

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hose visiting Occoquan Regional Park, Lorton, can see progress toward completion of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Replica White House gates, statuary, pavement and the main sign marker are now visible upon reaching the area opposite the park's main event building. When completed, tentatively this Spring, the memorial, with statuary and garden, will honor suffragists and their success in gaining women's right to vote in 1917.

The peaceful actions of those women stand in stark contrast to the unsuccessful violent actions of those who sought to disrupt the certification of votes of the Electoral College at the Capital last week. Says Patricia Wirth, Executive Di-

rector/CEO of the Turning Point Memorial Association, "Suffragists engaged in peaceful demonstrations, and never perpetrated violence, although they did have violence perpetrated against them." They were often referred to as "silent sentinels" for their peaceful, quiet demonstrations in the capital city. The Memorial site stands near where several suffragists were jailed and force fed after their arrest for holding banners containing messages promoting voting rights on the sidewalk outside the White House.

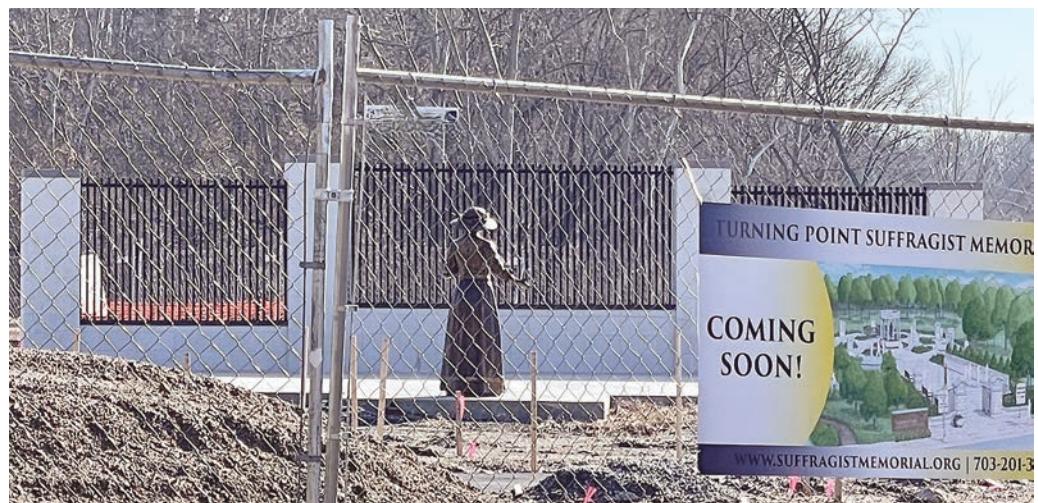
Citizens reacted negatively after hearing of the poor treatment of suffragists in the Lorton jail, a reaction which helped the suffragist cause.

For donations, and more memorial and historical information, readers are directed to [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org).



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Replicas of the White House gates and fence form the entrance to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.



Site of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial under construction with expected completion in Spring 2021.

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## Burke♦Fairfax♦Springfield♦Fairfax Station



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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

### Graduating in Pandemic Time

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### Showcasing Fairfax City's Diverse Dining Scene

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### Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

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MAY 20-26, 2021

# NEWS

## Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

To educate, inspire, empower present and future generations.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

For more than seven decades, millions of American women sought the right to vote. On May 16, the first monument in the country to commemorate their struggles, to tell the lengthy story of the suffragist movement, and to celebrate suffragists' accomplishment - the passing of the 19th Amendment - was dedicated in Lorton. Located on the grounds of Occoquan Regional Park, not far from where suffragists were incarcerated and tortured for peacefully picketing on the sidewalk in front of the White House, the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial was dedicated in a small ceremony, live streamed across the country, in advance of its public opening.

Jane Barker, Vice Chair/CoFounder of the memorial association, shared the early humble vision, first discussed by League of Women Voters with NOVA Parks staff, to tell the local story of the suffragists imprisoned at the nearby Occoquan Workhouse. They discussed "a brick wall with a few picture plaques of the women, ...on a small brick-paved area that would be called the Turning Point Plaza; the projected cost was \$25,000." They soon realized "telling just part of the 72 year long struggle wasn't enough - we needed to create a national memorial that was befitting their sacrifices



Association members, NoVA Parks Board members, State legislators, and County Supervisor cut the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial ribbon in front of the entrance replicating the White House gates where suffragists maintained their "silent sentinel."

and accomplishments." The nearly \$3 million dollar memorial, designed by Robert E. Beach Architects, LLC, is the culmination of that needed recognition.

SEVERAL SPEAKERS spoke of the effort that went into making the bigger vision come to completion. The site is seen as an

apt location due to its historical setting near where the horrible treatment of suffragists led to the important "turning point" in public opinion, from which the memorial draws its name. Cate Magennis Wyatt, Chair of the NOVA Parks Board, said thousands who stroll by will have the opportunity to learn the story of the right to vote struggle

in America which is not taught in history books; to learn history and "herstory." And through international tourism, "for people world-wide to aspire to suffrage in their own countries."

NOVA Parks will steward the care and upkeep of the memorial on its grounds.

SEE MEMORIAL, PAGE 6



Girl Scout Troop 1600 members Hannah Smith, Katelyn Sullivan, Kasey Petrie, and Rory Gilles stand with the statue of Alice Paul, author of the Equal Rights Amendment.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Re-enactrist Lynne Garvey-Hodges, as Mrs. Robert 'Mimi' Walker who was arrested for picketing and served 60 days at the Workhouse, poses with the statue of Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader in the suffrage movement and founder of the League of Women Voters.



Peri and Page Schiavone sit taking in the memorial's grounds and 19 history information stations with other visitors

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Thelma Daley, Past President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, poses with a statue of Mary Church Terrell, an honorary member of the sorority and co-founder of the NAACP. The Sorority contributed \$100,000 to the Memorial's \$2.7 million dollar funding.

## Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

FROM PAGE 3

Executive Director/CEO of the memorial association, Pat Wirth, who oversaw completion of the project, spoke of her expectation that the Turning Point Institute to follow will inspire girls to leadership roles and train young women in the skills of the suffragists: public speaking, political candidacy, social awareness, civil and equal rights.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial uses a significant number of stations, 19, to tell the suffrage movement story from 1848 to 1920. Its cost was funded through contributions of thousands of donors from 45 states and the District of Columbia, Fairfax County, the Virginia Commonwealth, foundations, corporations, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, women's associations, and non-profit organizations. Three life-sized bronze statues, donated by the National Suffrage Centennial Commission, reflect the images of Alice Paul, co-founder of the National Women's Party; Mary Church Terrell, co-founder of the NAACP and an organizer and honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Also included in the memorial is an actual section of the White House fence, on loan from the National Park Service; the first section to be given.



Jane Barker, Vice Chair/Co-Founder of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, extended an invitation to all to "come here and learn this history and enjoy our beautiful memorial in this gorgeous park."

picketing the suffragists carried on in front of the White House, the first ever to protest there, to gain President Wilson's attention, earning them the name, "Silent Sentinels".

The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the United States and individual states from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex. The first women's suffrage amendment was introduced in Congress in 1878, but not passed until 1919; it was ratified by the required 36 states and was certified on Aug. 26, 1920.

To learn more about the memorial and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, see [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org)

## Bikeway Will Link Newington to the Metro Station

The wooded trail is being linked and extended for commuters and hikers.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

In a lesser-known area of the southern Springfield-Beulah Road area, Fairfax County is building a multi-use path from Cinder Bed Road along Long Branch creek to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, enhancing a commuting option for many in this part of the county. The proposed trail, called the "Cinder Bed Bikeway," will be a two-mile connection with two bridges over the creek, lighting, and neighborhood connections that are part of the county bicycle path network.

Serenity Cromer walks her pit bull named Becca on the wooded path nearly every day and has seen deer, foxes and other wildlife near the path. She hadn't heard about the project, but liked the thought of it linking to the Metro station. "You are still in the city but it's a nice retreat," she said.

THE COUNTY describes the project as a continuous shared use path between Newington Road and the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. A shared use path will be constructed along the west side of Cinder Bed Road, connect to an existing trail through Fairfax County Park Authority property, and then continue through private property to tie into the trail at the end of Barry Road that leads to the Franconia/Springfield Metro Station. The Cinder Bed Bikeway was discussed at a recent video public information meeting May 10 with county officials, the biking community and nearby residents.

"This is a commuter trail, bike trail," said Jeffrey Fasceski, the Fairfax County project manager who led the video conference. It is one part of a county effort to extend the trail from the Metro station to Fort Belvoir. "The entire trail will have lighting, the intent is to be a commuter path," Fasceski added. The trail crosses from the Mount Vernon District into Lee District and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) participated in the video conference. Storck is an advocate for bike route improvements in his district and was "very pleased to see this bikeway being done," he said.

THIS PATH is frequently used by area residents who walk, jog and bike, and some of the area children have even been fishing in the creek. "It's a great trail, we walk this trail every day," added Cromer. After the county laid out the plans for the project, there were a series of questions from residents, and the Friends of Accotink Creek were concerned that the trail edges too close to the creek in some parts.

The trail project is funded through county funds along with Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)



MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION  
The trail follows Long Branch through the woods.

Grant funds. Final plans are expected to be completed fall 2021, and construction is scheduled from November 2022 to May 2024.

### TRAIL SAFETY

Lighting is planned for this trail, and one of the slides showed one of the bridges with the planned lighting. The area is heavily wooded and down the hill from houses and roads and last year there was an incident on the existing trail. According to police, on May 14, 2020, a woman was jogging on a trail near the end of Thomas Grant Drive when a man began to assault her. A witness came to her aid and the man ran away. The woman was taken to the hospital and treated for serious injuries that were not life threatening. After a search of the area, officers identified and arrested 21-year-old Vincent Wesley nearby. Wesley was charged with malicious wounding and strangulation. He was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held without bond.

The Fairfax County Police Department does have Neighborhood Patrol Units that frequently patrol trails using mountain bikes said FCPD officer James Curry. "We would encourage those who do traverse these trails to make sure they notify a friend or family member prior to embarking on the trail, carry a fully charged cell phone, and be sure to start your hike or ride with enough daylight for your entire trip," Curry recommended.

# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



The Lucy Burns Museum, located in the Workhouse Arts Center, helps visitors to explore the suffragist movement and exhibits items from workhouse life and work production. (Jan. 2020)



Dedicated in May 2021, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, is located in the Occoquan Regional Park. (Sept. 2021)

## Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Located within the Occoquan Regional Park, is the nation's first monument to the women's suffrage movement. Recently dedicated in May 2021, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, uses a garden with 19 information panels to honor the struggles and tell the story of women committed to

passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right to vote for women.

The monument's location is adjacent to the workhouse where women incarcerated for picketing in front of the White House, the first protestors to picket there, endured

forced feeding and violence. The Lucy Burns Museum, housed within the former prison, turned into the Workhouse Arts Center, tells the story of their imprisonment and workhouse operations.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is located within Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, Va., on part of the historic prison grounds where scores of suf-

fragists were jailed in 1917 for picketing the White House.

The Memorial is free, self-guided and open year-round during the park's normal hours of operation that change seasonally.

<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/turning-point-suffragist-memorial>

— SUSAN LAUME

# Fairfax City Looks to the Future



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
Workmen apply commercial wrap to the under-construction Capstone Collegiate apartments.



Artist's rendition of the Capstone Collegiate apartments in Fairfax City.



Northfax West site plan showing the townhouses, senior-living facility and future-development area.

FROM PAGE 3

along Fairfax Boulevard. The property also includes two, adjacent, single-family lots on Cedar Avenue.

IDI will build 266 residential units – 115 townhouses, 144 condos in a four-story building, and seven, single-family homes. The plan also contains 20,000 square feet of retail in two buildings, plus 24,000 square feet of commercial and/or community uses in the retained, original portion of the school building. Fifteen of the townhouses along Fairfax Boulevard will be live/work units with retail on the bottom.

IDI will build the condos and commercial portions, and a development partner will construct the townhomes, IDI will also add

a shared-use path along McLean and Cedar avenues and a 10-foot-wide walkway along the Fairfax Boulevard frontage. The site will also contain pocket parks and a village green.

Drivers will access it all via Oak Street, plus four points along Fairfax Boulevard. IDI will also contribute \$133,000 to mitigate impacts to City schools, provide 60 parking spaces for Pat Rodio Park and underground McLean Avenue utility poles. Construction is anticipated to take some three years.

### Capstone Collegiate Communities

Aimed at providing housing for GMU students, Capstone Collegiate Communities is being constructed on 6 acres bounded by Democracy Lane and University and Layton

Hall drives. Entrances will be from Democracy and Layton.

It replaces an existing office park with two, connected, four- and five-story multifamily buildings containing 275 housing units. Ranging from studios to one, two, three and four bedrooms, some may be double occupancy, provided the number of building residents does not exceed 825.

Each rental unit will come fully furnished and will have a common living area, kitchen, washer and dryer, plus one bathroom per bedroom. And no more than four, unrelated people may occupy a single unit. In addition, a swimming pool is proposed for an internal courtyard.

Some 737 parking spaces will be provided – 680 in a parking garage, plus 57 on-

street and surface spaces. Parallel parking will be along Democracy and on a future, private street, and all streets will have sidewalks. And Capstone Collegiate Communities LLC will contribute \$30,000 for two bus shelters. It's expected to be finished in 2022.

### Northfax West Revitalization

The Lann Co. will revamp and revitalize the City's Northfax West area.

\* Phase One includes construction of a storm-drainage culvert, utility relocations, realignment of Orchard Street, three new crosswalks, a walking trail, sidewalks and bike lanes.

SEE MULTIFAMILY HOMES, PAGE 13  
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