

# CAPITOL CRIMES

*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

MAY 2022

## From the President

### The countdown is on!

When this goes out, only 12 days until the Killer Workshop! Are you signed up? If not, you have until midnight on May 10<sup>th</sup> to register for the in person event, and midnight on May 12<sup>th</sup> to register for the virtual event. And if you can't make up your mind, you can go to the in person event, and for only \$10 more, access the recordings of the virtual event for several weeks afterward. The best of both worlds! You can read more about all of the details below, but rest assured that you will not want to miss it!



I don't know about all of you, but my calendar is starting to fill up after two years of blank squares and cancelled plans. It feels, dare I say it, normal? I was lucky enough to go to my first ever Left Coast Crimes conference in Albuquerque last month, and that truly felt like a fresh start. I got to attend wonderful sessions, meet amazing authors, and hang out with other Capitol Crimes members. Check out the picture (above) of our members all dressed up for the awards banquet. We look pretty good!

I was reminded yet again of how welcoming the crime writing community is. From award-winning authors to newbies like me, everyone was supportive and excited to hear about what other writers were doing. After all, more writers mean more books for us to read! I came home with a suitcase filled with books and more on my kindle, along with connections and ideas for future Capitol Crimes events. And of course, motivation to keep writing.

If you're looking for ways to connect with other writers, please take advantage of the many Capitol Crimes events. Besides the workshop, we have Book Club on May 10<sup>th</sup> featuring Claire Booth's

*continued on next page*

## What's Inside

Upcoming Events..... 2

Chapter News ..... 3-5

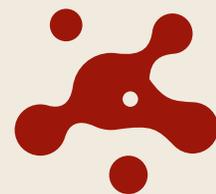
- Book Club with Claire Booth
- Killer Workshop and Giveaway Opportunity

Member News ..... 6-8

POV – “Creating Social Media Content That Works”  
*Terry Shepherd* ..... 9

Interesting Reads  
*Carol Newhouse*... 10-11

In Other News ..... 12





*From the President continued*

latest, *Dangerous Consequences*. She also has a book launch at Face in a Book on May 7th so you can grab the book then if you don't already have it.

And the day after the workshop, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Capitol Crimes will have a table at the [Words and Music](#) event in Elk Grove. If you're an author, you can register to have a table, or you can just come enjoy the day.

We have another exciting weekend in June. Member Tori Eldridge is coming from LA on her book tour for her latest book, *Dance Among the Flames*. Join us on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Face in a Book for her book event, with a casual no host dinner afterwards. Then on June 18<sup>th</sup>, she is going to speak at our Members Meeting on Branding the Author Instead of the Book. Those of you who know Tori know that she is an expert in author branding, and we're excited to have the opportunity to learn from the best. This meeting will be hybrid, so you can join us in person or on Zoom because we don't want anyone to miss out!

And on June 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our third Capitol Crimes Coffee Hour, this time at Underground Books. These events have been a lot of fun, and I never need an excuse to visit a bookstore!

And that is just the next two months. Keep an eye on our website for more amazing events. See you all soon!

—Sarah Bresniker, President



## Upcoming Events

### **BOOK CLUB (*Dangerous Consequences* by Claire Booth)**

Tuesday, May 10 @ 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

### **Killer Workshop 2022 - In Person**

Saturday, May 14 @ 8:00 AM (PT) • Rancho Cordova City Hall  
2729 Prospect Park Dr, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

### **Killer Workshop 2022 - Virtual**

Saturday, May 14 @ 11:30 AM (PT) • CrowdCast



### **BRANDING THE AUTHOR INSTEAD OF THE BOOK with Tori Eldridge**

Saturday, June 18, 2022 @ 1:00 PM (PT)  
Maidu Library, 1530 Maidu Drive, Roseville CA  
AND on Zoom

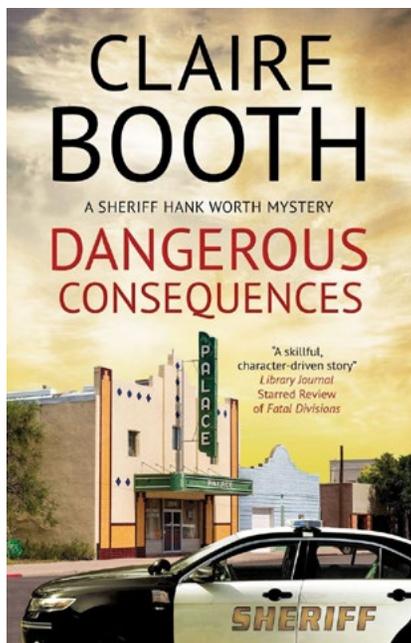
### **BOOK CLUB (*Deadly Delights* by Laura Jensen Walker)**

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details and to register.

**MAY  
2022**

## Chapter News



### BOOK CLUB

Don't miss our next Book Club meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:00- 8:30 PM (PT), Zoom when we discuss ***Dangerous Consequences***, the 5th book in the Sheriff Hank Worth series by Claire Booth.

Claire Booth is a former newspaper reporter who has worked in Missouri, Washington, D.C., South Florida, the Seattle area, and the Bay Area. She's reported on many high-profile stories, including the Laci Peterson murder and the San Francisco dog mauling. The case of a deadly cult leader became the subject of her nonfiction book, *The False Prophet: Conspiracy, Extortion and Murder in the Name of God*. After spending that much time covering crimes so strange and convoluted they seemed more fiction than reality, she

had enough of the real world and decided to write novels instead. Her Sheriff Hank Worth mysteries take place in Branson, Missouri, where small-town Ozark politics and big-city country music tourism clash in – yes – strange and convoluted ways.

Learn more about the author and the series at [www.clairebooth.com](http://www.clairebooth.com)



Also, Claire will launch her latest Sheriff Hank Worth mystery novel on Saturday, May 7th at **Face in a Book**, 4359 Town Center Blvd., #113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Join her from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a glass of wine and a short talk about the book.

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## Membership Meeting Videos Now Available to Members!

We understand that sometimes you just can't attend a meeting, and other times there is so much information that you want to watch it all over again. We are happy to announce that our members now have access to videos of past meetings, whenever they are available. This is a member benefit only, yet another reason to join if you love our meetings! **To access the videos, go to our website here. You must be logged in as a member to access the page.** Once you are there, you can just click to watch the video of your choice.

We are very grateful to the presenters who allowed us to record their presentations and make them available to our members. Please remember that all content belongs to the presenter. If you have any questions or problems with the webpage, please email us at [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto:CapitolCrimes@gmail.com).

**MAY**  
**2022**

Capitol Crimes Killer Workshop Happening this month!



- A Riddle -

What has 10 Speakers appearing in person



9 virtual Speakers



Robin Burcell



Terri Farley Moran



Charles Todd



Debra Goldstein



Roger Johns



Wanda Morris



Yasmin Angoe



E.A. Aymar



Carla Damron

MAY  
2022

**Capitol Crimes Killer Workshop Happening this month!**

**1 Incredible Keynote**



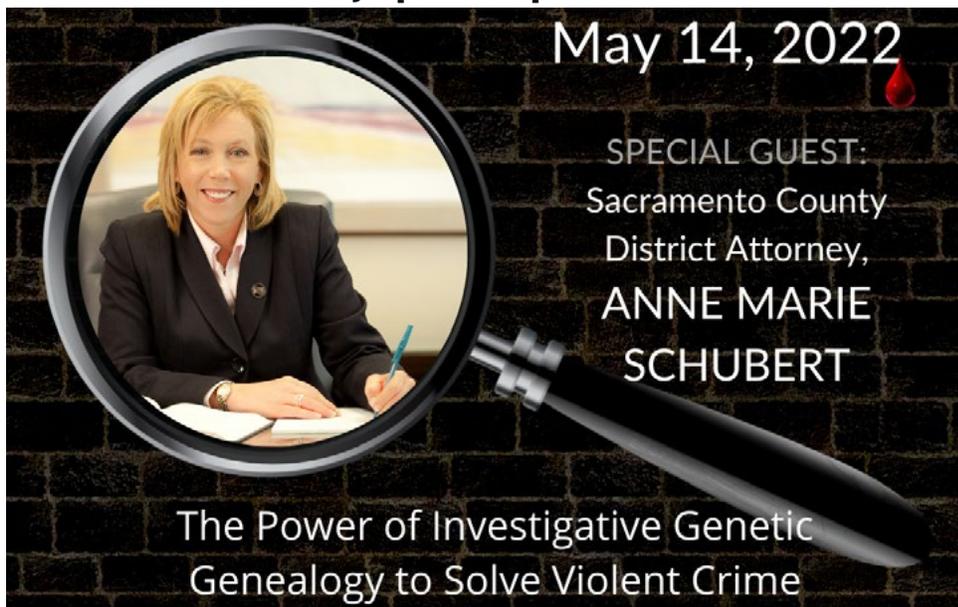
**May 14, 2022**

**KEYNOTE:**  
**GREGG HURWITZ**

New York Times #1 internationally bestselling author of 23 thrillers!

*Virtual & In Person (Rancho Cordova City Hall, CA)*

**1 "Very Special" Special Guest**



**May 14, 2022**

**SPECIAL GUEST:**  
Sacramento County  
District Attorney,  
**ANNE MARIE  
SCHUBERT**

The Power of Investigative Genetic  
Genealogy to Solve Violent Crime

**Plus a chance to win a developmental/line edit for a story of up to 5,000 words from renowned editor and multi-award-winning short story editor Barb Goffman**

**and is less than 2 weeks away?**

**Yup - You guessed it**

**Capitol Crimes Killer Workshop '22**

**Go to [capitolcrimes.org/workshop](http://capitolcrimes.org/workshop) to register**

**Hope to see you there.**



**MAY  
2022**



## Member News

May 18th at 10 AM, James L'Etoile will speak at the Gold Country Writers to discuss "Exploring Character." He'll discuss what it means to have well-developed characters, and character-driven stories to infuse manuscripts with characters readers remember after they put the book down. Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA.

Member Susan McCormick sent photos from Malice Domestic:



Susan McCormick at the panel "Not Her First Rodeo: Mature Sleuths" talking about The Fog Ladies.



Catriona McPherson at her book signing.

From member Lorie Ham -

Two new episodes of Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast went up this month! The first one featured an excerpt from Here Comes the Body by Maria DiRico aka Ellen Byron <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/here-comes-the-body-by-maria-dirico/>. The second episode features the mystery short story A Confluence in Time written by Reavis Z. Wortham <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/a-confluence-in-time-by-reavis-z-wortham/>. Both are read and performed by local actors! You can find all of the episodes in all of the usual podcast places like Apple Podcasts and Spotify, and on our Podbean website. We hope you check them out! <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/>



Another great review for SAVING LA FAMILIA from Amazon Reviews!

5.0 out of 5 stars - "Great Read" from Nikita

"I loved the idea behind the story, the tension created between the two characters who suddenly reconnect after years of anger and betrayal. The process that the main characters go through while aiming to save her family. I recommend the book."

Visit Donna's website at: [donnadeloro.com](http://donnadeloro.com)

MAY  
2022

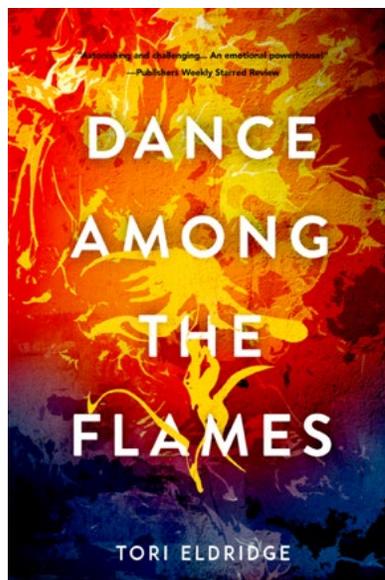
## Member News

New from the national bestselling author  
Tori Eldridge

### DANCE AMONG THE FLAMES

A “stunningly original novel” (F. Paul Wilson) about a desperate mother who rises from the slums of Brazil to become a powerful wielder of Quimbanda magic. Across forty years, three continents, and a past incident in 1560 France, Serafina Olegario tests the boundaries of love, power, and corruption as she fights to escape her life of poverty and abuse.

<https://torieldridge.com/dance-among-the-flames>



	<h2>DANCE AMONG THE FLAMES</h2> <h3>Tori Eldridge on Tour</h3>	
<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>STOKERCON</b> (early-sale pre-launch)	<b>DENVER</b>
<b>MAY 25</b>	<b>THE POISONED PEN, 7pm PST</b> (in-store hybrid)	<b>SCOTTSDALE</b>
<b>MAY 28</b>	<b>MYSTERIOUS GALAXY, 2pm PST</b> (in-store hybrid w/ Jonathan Maberry)	<b>SAN DIEGO</b>
<b>MAY 31</b>	<b>BOOK SOUP, 6pm PST</b> (virtual w/ Elle Marr)	<b>LOS ANGELES</b>
<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>THRILLERFEST</b> (in-person)	<b>NEW YORK</b>
<b>JUNE 6</b>	<b>FLYLEAF BOOKS, 5pm EST</b> (in-person)	<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>
<b>JUNE 11</b>	<b>DARK DELICACIES, 3pm PST</b> (in-person signing)	<b>BURBANK</b>
<b>JUNE 14</b>	<b>MURDER BY THE BOOK, 6:30pm CST</b> (virtual event w/ Alma Katsu)	<b>HOUSTON</b>
<b>JUNE 17</b>	<b>FACE IN A BOOK, 6pm PST</b> (in-store w/ Terry Shepherd)	<b>SACRAMENTO</b>

**MAY  
2022**



## Member News



Another fantastic Capitol Crimes Coffee Hour with crime writers. It was great to see some old friends and meet new ones! Thank you **Avid Reader** at Broadway Station for your generous hospitality and Richard Meredith for being such a fantastic host!

Check out [www.capitocrimes.org](http://www.capitocrimes.org) for information about upcoming events and our June Coffee Hour!

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### Great Valley Writing Workshops

General Info: The workshops are geared for writers creating short pieces to submit to anthologies and magazines. Each four-week set of zoom sessions will be limited to a dozen writers. The faculty includes June Gillam, PhD, and other California authors as guest speakers.

Location: Over Zoom through June Gillam's website application.

Days and Times: Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm and at other times as may be desired.

Workshops Currently Offered in four-week summer sessions

- June 7 - 28 – short fiction
- July 5 - 26 – poetry
- August 9 - 30 – nonfiction/essays/memoir

Application Deadline: the last day of each month, with rolling admissions. Apply between May 15 and May 31 for the first four-week workshop. [www.junegillam.com](http://www.junegillam.com)

Cost: By donation at the present time.

What Makes Us Different: The Great Valley Writing Workshops emphasize collaborative methods and provide intensive feedback and instruction to a wide range of participants.

**MAY  
2022**

## POV - Terry Shepherd's monthly thoughts about The Craft

Terry Shepherd distills ideas about creation, tech and promotion into actionable ideas every author can leverage to build their brand and sell more books.

### Creating Social Media Content That Works

The ultimate objective of any communication is to influence action.

You will be judged by the quality of your content. Understanding the psychology of how we consume social media can help you create compelling posts that attract attention and encourage sharing.



What draws your attention? The [Social Pilot](#) Website shares ten content types that are most likely to generate viral interest:

- Puzzles and Riddles
- Infographics
- Motivational Content
- Personality Quizzes
- Lists
- Case Studies
- How-To Guides
- Top Posts (Top Ten Lists)
- Long Form Content (Google prioritizes articles with word counts exceeding 1500)
- Humanized Stories (real-life stories about struggle, kindness, determination and hope)

The high-performance consultants at [Highspot](#) distill powerful content this way:

- Viral content... Understands its audience
- Has clear goals
- Is easy to digest
- Has great visuals
- Starts small
- Has a strong promotional plan
- Author is actively engaged
- Is mobile friendly

[Thrive](#), another company that specializes in maximizing social media effectiveness, says that all viral content offers entertainment value, is highly relatable and evokes an emotional response.

The [Fractl](#) search engine optimization company identifies admiration, happiness and love as the most common positive emotions connected with emotional images that go viral. And don't forget the captions. Powerful captions amplify effectiveness.

The secret to creating a timeline of consistently compelling content is to **stay positive**

While negative posts have the capacity to go viral, they are most often associated with disgust. That's not an emotion you want connected with your brand.

Google "[The most viral positive posts](#)," to see what is ranking high at the time you are creating your content.

The people we stay with on social media balance their activity between selling their product and sharing tidbits about their lives. An excellent content quality indicator is what you share. When you bracket the definition of positive, productive posts, what reflexively has you hitting the share button?

And think about people you follow who leave you feeling better about yourself. What are they writing about?

Questions? Comments? Write to [Terry@TerryShepherd.com](mailto:Terry@TerryShepherd.com)



**MAY**  
**2022**



## Interesting Reads - a bi-monthly column by member Carol Newhouse

Carol Newhouse is a member of the National Sisters in Crime and the Toronto, Los Angeles, Guppies and Sacramento chapters. She writes stories for inclusion in anthologies, four newsletter columns, and is hard at work on her first book in the Zookeeper Mystery series. When not dreaming of dead bodies or taking virtual exercise classes, she plays competitive bridge, hangs out at the Toronto Zoo, and paints with watercolors. She can be reached at [newhouse.carol@gmail.com](mailto:newhouse.carol@gmail.com).



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### First of a Series

This column's *Interesting Reads* features books that are the first in a series.

A story designed to carry a series must create a world, introduce characters and build plotlines with enough reach to carry reader interest forward to the next book. A tall order but the selections I've chosen succeed in doing this. I'm talking about reads where reaching the finish line means you either order the author's backlist or pre-order the next offering in the series.

*Lending a Paw* by Laurie Cass, introduces Minnie Hamilton, bookmobile librarian and her sidekick, Eddie, a stray cat she adopts. Excited when she's hired by the Chilson District Library, conflict besets Minnie when her boss throws up roadblocks, hoping to find a rationale to ground the bookmobile permanently. It doesn't help when Eddie sneaks onto the moving library or finds a dead body at one of the stops on its inaugural run. Worse still, the deceased is none other than the benefactor whose donation funded the creation of the bookmobile.

Plenty of suspects, the antics of Eddie, and several mysterious subplots, some generated by bookmobile patrons, kept me reading.

Laurie Cass' plausible plot lines and easy-to-read writing style made the book entertaining. Guess who's reading her backlist?

I first read *Edwin of the Iron Shoes* by Marcia Muller in 1977. I loved it then, enough to buy each subsequent book in the series. I fell in love again, when I reread it for this column.

This nifty mystery is firmly embedded in the late seventies culture. Businesses with sliding scale payment schedules, struggling shopkeepers rallying against the corporate machine, and co-operatives where people share communal meals and space populate the fictional world of Muller's first book. A male character references a female speaker by saying, "Damn fine woman. Ought to have been a man."

I enjoyed reading about the details of running an antique business, and how things work always makes a great hook.

Giving the protagonist, Sharon McCone, a back story as an investigator employed by a law firm, provides her with a natural entry into this and subsequent mysteries.

This book spawned forty-one others, so even if you are not an aging hippie reading for entertainment, aspiring authors would be well-advised to deconstruct *Edwin of the Iron Shoes* to unearth strategies for creating their own first books.

*Interesting Reads continued on next page*

MAY  
2022

*A Catered Murder* by Isis Crawford is a fast-paced romp that serves up splashes of humor folded into a murder mystery written in an easy-to-read style. The plotline is straightforward. Bernadette Simmons leaves Los Angeles after catching her boyfriend cheating and returns home to upstate New York. She begins work with her sister Libby in the catering business. It's all hands on deck when they are hired to cater their high school reunion which sports a Dracula theme. Graduate and guest of honor, New York Times bestseller vampire writer Laird Wrenn, arrives at the venue with his entourage amid loads of fanfare and brings his own prop – a life size coffin, which provides a convenient resting place when he drops dead at the dinner. It's up to the girls to solve the murder when Libby falls under suspicion.

There's food, food, and more food plus plenty of other vivid imagery to entertain. Over-the-top personalities are paired with outlandish situations which Crawford combines to serve up a culinary cozy guaranteed to whet the appetites of each reader drawn to this particular genre.

*A Catered Murder*, the first in the series of seventeen books and counting, brings fun to the table, and who can argue with them apples?

Each of these books does the heavy lifting required of first books and, in addition to being a good read, any one of them could serve as a template for writers hoping to craft a successful mystery series of their own.

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Thank you so much **Yasmin** for an informative and entertaining presentation on Saturday, April 16. Visit Yasmin's website: [yasminangoe.com](http://yasminangoe.com)



**MAY**  
**2022**

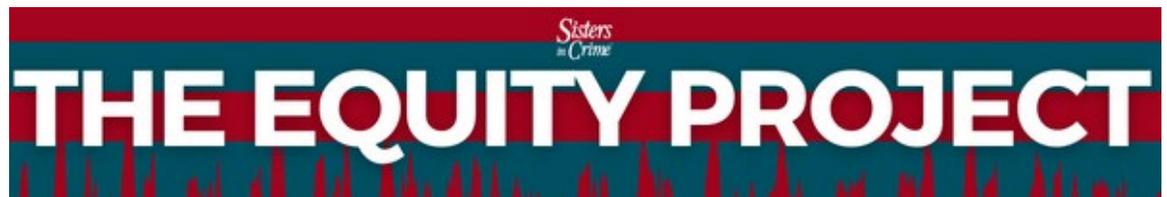


## In Other News:

From the **Elk Grove Writers Guild: Words and Music** at the Chicks in Crisis Campus, 9455 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, Sunday, May 15, 2022, 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. [Click here for author registration and ticket sales.](#) \$20 for table space. Bring your own table and chair(s). Listen to an author's words, or find that perfect book. Food and Drink by Chicks in Crisis available to purchase. Tickets are \$10.00. Meet the entertainers: Gary Mendoza, Dinorah, Carly Rhoades, Todd Morgan. Capitol Crimes will have a table, please join us with your own table or volunteer at the chapter table.

**Bouchercon 2022**, September 8-11, 2022, Hilton 1001 Marquette Ave S, Minneapolis. [Click here for more information.](#)

**ThrillerFest XVII** will take place May 31 to June 4, 2022! We're excited to present a blockbuster line-up this year, featuring 2022 ThrillerMasters Frederick Forsyth and Diana Gabaldon, 2022 Spotlight Guest Alafair Burke, 2022 Spotlight Guest Joseph Finder, and 2022 Spotlight Guest Veronica Roth. We're also celebrating our 2022 Thriller Legend, Writers House, and our 2022 ThrillerFans Theresa Lee and Rosie Stroy. Join us for Master Class, CraftFest, PitchFest, ConsultFest, ThrillerFest, and more. [Click here for more information.](#)



### SISTERS IN CRIME - THE EQUITY PROJECT 2022

*Understanding Justice, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, & Diversity*

YOU are invited to complete **THE EQUITY PROJECT SURVEY**

The survey is open through May 9. [Here's a link.](#)

### The Equity Project Write-In

On Saturday, May 7 at 11am EDT/10am CDT/9am MDT/8am PDT there will be a Equity Project Writing Prompt Write-In. [Learn more and register here.](#)

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### FOLLOW US, LIKE US - JOIN US!



Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details.

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### GOT CONTENT?

Send your press-ready article to: [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto:CapitolCrimes@gmail.com)  
Put "Newsletter" in the subject line. Due by the third week of the month.  
We will publish the first Monday of the following month.

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