
Shepherd Park News

Newsletter of the

Shepherd Park Citizens Association

Winter 2003

Calendar

FEBRUARY

20—Emergency Preparedness Meeting, 6:30 p.m., People's Congregational, 4704 13th St NW
20—MPD 4th District Citizens

Advisory Council, 7 p.m.,
4th District Police Station

22—GGARC/James Gallery art show, 1-6 p.m. [see p.4]

24—Poetry reading, 7 p.m.,
Shepherd Elementary

25—Tot Lot meeting,
6:45 p.m., Shepherd Elementary

28—Potluck/Jazz Festival,
6:30 p.m., Shepherd Elementary

MARCH

1—Free health screening,
11 a.m.—2 p.m., National
Museum of Health and Medicine
at Walter Reed

4—ANC 4A meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Ft. Stevens Rec Center

8—PSA 401 meeting, 11 a.m.,
Sh. Pk. Library

12—SPCA General Meeting,
6:45 p.m., *Shepherd
Elementary*

**12—Fashion Show and Book
Signing: *Threads of Time, The
Fabric of History***, 5-8 p.m.,
Sh. Pk. Library

20—Air Force Band, 4 p.m.,
Sh. Pk. Library

**20—MPD 4th District Citizens
Advisory Council**, 7 p.m.,
4th District Police Station

APRIL

8—ANC 4A meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Ft. Stevens Rec Center

12—PSA 401 meeting, 11a.m.,
Sh. Pk. Library

**17—MPD 4th District Citizens
Advisory Council**, 7 p.m.,
4th District Police Station

**June 7 & 8—Shepherd Park
Yard Sale**

**For more news, join the
Shepherd Park listserv.** Send
a blank e-mail to shepherdpark-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com
or contact Beth Allaben at
beth.dc@verizon.net.

Message From The President

On behalf of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association's Executive Board [see page 2], we are honored that you have elected us to serve this dynamic neighborhood. During my tenure as President, I will strive to ensure that the Board works with every sector of the community to build on the sense of unity for which Shepherd Park is known.

When this Board took office in December 2002, we realized that to be effective we had to work on dual tracks: to establish guidelines for the Board's organization and procedures, while also beginning to address some of the difficult issues facing the community overall. We are off to a good start. Our mission statement has been drafted; we have established goals and objectives; and we have prioritized the issues on which we will focus, including public safety and crime prevention; increasing neighborhood outreach and interaction; Georgia Avenue economic development and the effects of the downtown Silver Spring revitalization on our community; partnership with Shepherd Elementary School; and the appearance of our neighborhood. And, finally, we have identified the committees needed in order to begin moving the work forward.

However, the bulk of our work is ahead, and we will be unable to accomplish anything without your support. Over the last few months, many of you have indicated — through your SPCA membership applications and in face-to-face conversations — that you are willing to do your part to influence change. The Board intends to capitalize on that enthusiasm now that we have the necessary structure in place.

Many Shepherd Park residents have suggested that a neighborhood "newspaper," covering issues of interest from both our community and the surrounding areas is important. The publication of this Newsletter is an example of how seriously the Board has taken this suggestion. The Newsletter's success will depend on both your input and readership, and on the Board's ability to raise funds to sustain future issues of this publication. If you own a business, consider placing an advertisement in this Newsletter. Comments or inquiries about submitting articles to the Newsletter or about volunteering for related tasks should be directed to Sally Ethelston or Beth Allaben, while advertising inquiries or suggestions should be directed to me [see page 2].

Another of your suggestions that we felt deserved particular attention was to have more frequent **General Meetings** on topics of interest to the community. We have scheduled the first such meeting of this Board's term for **Wednesday, March 12, at 6:45 p.m., at Shepherd Elementary School**. We have invited D.C. government officials, including Mayor Anthony Williams, Councilmember Adrian Fenty, and Police Chief Charles Ramsey to attend and address our concerns, including those related to the increase in crime that is plaguing our community.

In closing, I hope that the sense of purpose, which drives each and every member of the Board, will ignite your community spirit and motivate you to become involved. For, as we face the challenges that are likely to affect our quality of life, your participation in SPCA's activities — as well as in other opportunities for volunteering in our community — will be essential.

— **Joan Hoyte, SPCA President**

Shepherd Park News is back ...

We hope to publish quarterly, but **we need your help!** Become a dues-paying member of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association and help defray the cost of this newsletter and other activities. **Fill out the form at the back of the newsletter.** **We know you care about our community, so please consider becoming a member TODAY!**

Unlit street light? Recycling not picked up?

Don't wait for "someone else" to do something. Don't just vent to your neighbors on the e-mail list. Take a minute to do something about it. Phone in these types of problems to the **Mayor's City-Wide Call Center at 727-1000**. Write down the tracking number. If the problem isn't fixed, call back and find out why. The system is not perfect, but it is improving, and if we each take a couple of minutes to make sure the city is aware of these problems, we will all benefit. You can also make these service requests on-line (you will receive the tracking number by e-mail). Go to www.dc.gov and click on "Contact and Services" at the bottom of the page.

How to reach Shepherd Park News—

To submit articles or volunteer to help:

Sally Ethelston at sethelston@aol.com / 882-9717

Beth Allaben at beth.dc@verizon.net / 882-2609

For advertising or to make a contribution:

Joan Hoyte at jephh@aol.com / 882-2447

The Search is on for Block Captains

The SPCA is establishing a network of Block Captains, as an alternative means for contacting residents between issues of this newsletter. The Block Captain network will be used to hand deliver notices of events that come up on short notice or issues that need to be quickly brought to the attention of our neighbors, such as crime alerts. We don't expect that Block Captains will be asked to make deliveries more often than once a month and the areas will be designed so that distribution takes under 30 minutes. *Consider volunteering* as a Block Captain. **Contact Mike Binder** at mbinder@reality-alt.com or 726-8313 (e-mail preferred).

Orange Hats on Patrol

Did your New Year's resolution include getting more exercise? Becoming more involved in neighborhood affairs? Making a new friend? Now is your chance to do all of these and you can even bring your dog! Join the Orange Hats for their weekly patrol along Georgia Avenue. In the process, you'll get to know what is going on in our community, and make a friend or two. Meet at **Northminster Presbyterian Church**, Alaska and Kalmia (the steps on Alaska Avenue side) at **7:30 p.m. on Thursdays**. For information contact Joan Hoyte at jephh@aol.com or 882-2447.

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Shepherd Park Community Yard Sale

It's not too early to start cleaning out your attic in preparation for the neighborhood yard sale! We've set the dates — **June 7 and 8**. Last year over 50 families participated. Neighbors set up their own sales at their own homes. Each location pays a \$10 fee. SPCA takes care of the rest. Look for sign-up details in the next *Shepherd Park News*. **If you'd like to help**, contact Beth Allaben (882-2609, beth.dc@verizon.net) or Pam Satterfield (291-4865).

SPCA Executive Board

Joan Hoyte, President

882-2447 / jephh@aol.com

Dwayne Revis, Vice President

291-3415 / revis@starpower.net

Dolores Bondurant, Treasurer

829-4989 /

FBondurant@msn.com

Vivian Tucker, Corres. Sec'y

291-1179 /

vivian.tucker@marriott.com

Sally Ethelston, Rec. Secretary

882-9717 / sethelston@aol.com

At-large members:

Tom Black, Patrick Grobbel, Nansie Word

Delegates to Federation of Citizens Associations:

Dwayne Toliver, Marc Loud

Delegate to the Federation of Civic Associations:

Barry Hudson

Past Presidents:

Ellie Anderson, Gracie Baten, Ralph Blessing, Joseph Membrino

Lower Shepherd Field Renovations to Begin

Neil Albert, Director of DC Parks and Recreation (and a Shepherd Park neighbor) announced on January 9 that the bids are in for renovating the lower Shepherd field (adjacent to Shepherd Elementary School). Contracts were to be awarded by the end of January and work is expected to begin soon and will last about a month. The renovations will include regrading, irrigation installation, sod, a 1,000-foot walking track (with a rubberized surface), a baseball/softball field, a soccer field, benches, and a storage shed for the soccer goals. The fences, gates and water fountain will be replaced. The steps on the Jonquil Street side and on the hill will be repaired and erosion control measures will be taken near the steps. The field will be totally closed to all use for 9-12 months after the work is complete so the sod can get firmly established.

Also on the neighborhood's "wish list" for the field was a tot lot. After considering a number of options, DC Parks and Recreation determined that there was not enough space to safely include a tot lot on the field in addition to the other improvements. The Department has agreed, however, to fund the construction of a tot lot adjacent to the school. The tot lot would be open to community use except during the school recess period (12 noon – 1 p.m. on school days). A concept plan for a tot lot was presented at the meeting on January 9. Parks and Recreation will now develop more detailed plans for the **tot lot** for discussion at a **community meeting on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:45 p.m.** The hope is that the new tot lot can be installed early this summer.

Treegators

Did the city plant a tree in front of your house during the past year? Were you worried that it wouldn't survive the dog days of July and August? If so, you may want to buy a Treegator (one of those green canvas sacks you may have seen wrapped around the base of young trees) to keep it watered during the hot, summer months. We can purchase them in bulk for \$15 each. Interested? **Contact** Ralph Blessing at rblessin88@hotmail.com or 726-0587 by February 28.

16th Street Construction Update

Mr. Muhammed Khalid, project manager for the 16th Street reconstruction, reports that the project is moving according to the schedule, with a completion date of December 2003, although extreme cold weather and snow is slowing progress.

All traffic will be moved to the northbound (east) side in mid-February. Information about the change will be posted on the flashing signs and on the Shepherd Park e-mail listserv.

Councilmember Adrian Fenty explains that the reconstruction will bring the entire stretch of 16th Street between Alaska and Portal into compliance with National Highway Standards. This is necessary in order to be eligible for federal highway maintenance funding. The project is being paid for 100% with federal funds.

Neighbors concerned about the removal of trees along the sides of 16th Street and the future of the median plantings should know that the DC Forester identified only about 25 trees for removal along 16th Street, all of them either dead, dying, diseased, or unsound. According to Mr. Khalid, at this point the only trees that still need to be removed are some small trees on the west side of 16th Street. All trees removed will be replaced.

DDOT is working with DC Parks and Recreation landscapers to design the plantings for the median and the traffic circle at 16th and Colesville Road; these plans should be finalized by the fall of 2003. Mr. Khalid says that the landscaping plans will be presented to the ANC for consideration before work begins. **DDOT contacts:** Muhammed Khalid, 16th Street Reconstruction Project Manager, 671-2248, Muhammed.Khalid@dc.gov; Damon Harvey, Ward 4 Transportation Planner, 671-2556, Damon.Harvey@dc.gov.

Shepherd Elementary School News

Dr. Katherine A. James, Principal

Students, parents and teachers stay busy at Shepherd Elementary. Following are just a few of the highlights of recent and future activities that involve this important "member" of our community....

Student news: This year's Geography Bee was won by Kamaria Greenfield, in Ms. Eureka Powell's fifth grade class. Second place went to Mazi Chiles and third place to Drew Squires, both in Mr. Timothy Leonard's fifth grade class.

Mr. Steven King's sixth grade class is once again participating in *The Washington Post's* Stock Market Game, and they are winning each week! On the diplomatic front, Mrs. Elizabeth Namba's sixth grade class is participating in the Embassy Adoption Program for the second semester. The Folger Theater has invited Mrs. Valena Valentine-Nelson's fourth grade class to participate in the Shakespeare Festival this spring. The Emeralds of Shepherd, a choir of fourth-sixth graders, have already had seven performances and are now preparing for choral competition in Doswell, Virginia in May.

Shepherd's Student Council has already made a difference in the community this year. President Malcolm Morse (Grade 6) and council members led their classmates in contributing more than six baskets of canned foods for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. The Council continues to donate clothing with more than 7,000 pounds of shoes and clothes collected last year. We expect our Student Council to be recognized once again as an Honor Council of Excellence by the National Association of Elementary School Principals, as it has been for the last three consecutive years.

Shepherd Community stays involved: The larger community supports Shepherd Elementary in ways almost too numerous to count. Tifereth Israel tutors are again providing free tutoring services each Sunday evening to students who need extra help in various subjects. Each week the Senior Citizens OASIS Program provides reading partners for some of our second graders. Our fabulous parents and PTA started the year by enabling Shepherd to win first place for schools in our size group for having the largest number of adults accompanying children to school on the first day. During the fall, the PTA raised \$17,000 through gift wrap and candy sales and parent Donnell Jones created a Shepherd Elementary website: www.shepherdelementary.org.

On February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium, we will present our first "Poetry in the Round at the Shepherd Cafe." Professional poets will come and read their works to children and their parents. Our annual Jazz Concert will be February 28 at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for May 16, 17, and 18, when Shepherd students will present "The Music Man." The Shepherd Park community is welcome at all of these events.

Lowell School Values Neighbors, Neighborhood

Abigail Wiebenson, Director

Every day, Lowell School is grateful to be part of the greater Shepherd Park neighborhood. We love having neighbors use our campus for exercising their dogs (and thank them for consistently cleaning up after them), jogging, and for general family recreation, including our two playgrounds and Kalmia Creek. Many evenings and weekends, various neighborhood groups and individuals use the gym for basketball and the pool for lap swim, instruction, family swim and birthday parties.

It is also gratifying that so many neighborhood children take part in our Summer Programs. Teenagers are welcome to apply to be counselors and CITs. Neighbors who wish more information about facility rental and the Summer Programs can call for information: 577-2000. Additional information is available on our website: www.lowellschool.org.

Lowell has 317 students from Pre-Primary through Sixth grade, including many neighbors. We are accepting applications for the fall. Contact Michelle Belton, admissions coordinator at 577-2004 if you are interested in attending an information morning (each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11 a.m.). Remember that one out of five of our students receive financial assistance.

Robbins Building Renovation Underway

Ann Zabaldo, ECO Cohousing Coordinator

Plans are underway for the renovation of the Robbins Building at 7981 Eastern Avenue. Eco Housing Corporation (ECO) will be redeveloping the building as a mixed-use residential and commercial arts space.

“Eastern Village Cohousing” will build on the success of Takoma Village Cohousing in northwest Washington DC. Current plans are that 50 to 60 condos will comprise the cohousing community and range in size from 1-bedroom with den to 4-bedroom/2-bath units, with market-rate prices for the units expected to range from \$133,000 to \$435,000. In keeping with Montgomery County law, if there are more than 50 units, 12.5% of the units will be made available as Moderately Priced Dwelling Units. About 12,000 sq. ft. of commercial space will be available for lease as art studios and gallery space.

ECO expects to start construction this summer, and finish the project in late summer or early fall 2004. **For more information** visit <http://www.easternvillage.org>.

Gateway Revitalization Corporation Update

Marc Loud, GGARC Executive Director

Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation is a neighborhood-based community development corporation serving the communities of Shepherd Park, North Takoma (D.C.), and south Silver Spring, Maryland. Its Board members and Executive Director are members of these communities. GGARC receives grants from the District of Columbia government, the Montgomery County government, and PEPCO.

On the District side, our workplan includes the completion of 36 additional storefront improvements between the 7300 to 7800 blocks of Georgia Avenue, installation of lamppost banners on 23 lampposts from the 7300 to 7800 blocks of Georgia Avenue, completion of landscape designs in partnership with Neighborhood Design, Inc., and to apply for MAIN STREET designation. On **February 22** from 1-6 p.m., GGARC and the **James Gallery** will co-sponsor a **Black History Month art show** at 7610 Georgia Avenue featuring local emerging artists. **For information** about GGARC contact Marc Loud at 291-2400 or gatewaycdc@aol.com.

Annual Membership Application — 2003 — Please Print

Adult Name: _____ Adult Name 2: _____

Address: _____ e-mail address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Add me to the Shepherd Park e-mail group I'm already part of the e-mail group

I live in the area bordered by Eastern Avenue on the north, Aspen Street on the south, Georgia Avenue (west side) on the east, and Rock Creek Park on the west and want to join the Shepherd Park Citizens Association - \$20 per household.

Signature: _____

A fee will be assessed for any returned checks.

Make your check payable to SPCA and mail to:

**SPCA, c/o 7600 Georgia Avenue, NW #404
Washington, DC 20012**

Shepherd Park Citizens Association

c/o 7600 Georgia Ave., NW #404
Washington, DC 20012

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SILVER SPRING, MD
PERMIT NO. 1721

SPCA Community Meeting March 12