



# Shepherd Park News

## President’s Letter

by Micah Salb

The arrival of fall brings Washingtonians back to Washington. Roads get crowded, and drivers get testy. Gardens become bedraggled, parents become harried, and bosses expect us to start working again. Holidays monopolize the schedules of our Jewish neighbors, and many of us we look ahead with dread to a day of quarrelling on Thanksgiving.

The arrival of fall brings Washingtonians back to Washington.

Our friends return to town. The cool weather refreshes us. We enjoy the promise of a new school year. We are reinvigorated in our return to work after a quiet summer. We get to celebrate holidays with our friends, family, and neighbors.

Nothing in life is entirely good or entirely bad. My beloved twin sister died this summer. As terrible as her loss is, her death brought about the end of the pain of her long decline; Sunday visits with her brought my brothers and me much

*Continued on page*

## Shepherd Park Picnic Set for Sept. 29—IF

by Mark Pattison



The Shepherd Park picnic is returning after a five-year hiatus—if...Here’s why there’s an if, we got the date of Sunday, September 29 from our friends at East Rock Creek Village (ERCV).

They chose September 22 as their picnic date – and September 29 as the rain date. If ERCV’s picnic happens on September 22 as planned, then the SPCA picnic is on! But if bad weather cancels ERCV’s preferred date, then we’ll have to wait until next year. Keep looking at the Shepherd Park listserv for details and updates.

If the weather holds for both days, our picnic will be at Picnic Area 24 at Rock Creek Park. Picnic hours are 3:30-6 pm. (Someone else reserved the early afternoon hours.) To get to Picnic Area 24, take I66 south, then turn right at the light at Morrow St. NW; if you pass the Tennis Center, you’ve gone too far. Curve left at the “Carter Barron Parking” sign, then look for the brown sign with the number “24” and a picture of a picnic table. Parking’s across the street. There are swings and a playscape for kids, and comfort stations beyond that. Area 24 accommodates 75, but has seating for only 48. It’ll be a low-key and do-it-yourself affair, but a time to get together. Again, consult the listserv for details.

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# Ms. Senior DC Welcomes Shepherd Elementary Students

by Cynthia Prather

Shepherd Elementary School students got an extra smile and wave for this year's first day of school on August 26 as Ms. Senior DC, Janet Corbitt, greeted them in the school plaza. A native Washingtonian, 30-year Shepherd Park resident, and retired DCPS teacher, Corbitt decided to run for this coveted position to challenge herself and embrace new experiences, while spreading her platform of education, family, and community. In addition to Ms. Senior DC, Corbitt was recognized for best interview, best gown, best ticket sales, and best philosophy of life. Corbitt's husband, Robert Corbitt, Jr., and their three now-adult children all attended Shepherd Elementary School.



Photo by Cynthia Prather

Ms. Senior DC, Shepherd Park neighbor Janet Corbitt, encourages incoming students to S.M.I.L.E.: Shine, Motivate, Inspire, Lead, and Empower.

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### Corrections, May/June 2024

p.3 in the article "SPCA Needs Your Membership!" In describing the membership benefits, delete phrase, "to our annual garden tour on May 4th..."

p. 4, column 2, Commissioner and Community Concerns, "DDOT responded "no" to speed reduction along the entire length of 16th Street should read, "DDOT posted an NOI (Notice of Intent)

to reduce speed the entire length of 16th Street and to request community input."

p. 10, column 1, lines 13-15 should read "DDOT posted an NOI (Notice of Intent) to reduce speed the entire length of 16th Street and to request community input."

p. 11, Community Calendar, 4D CAC meets on Thurs, May 16.

The Shepherd Park News, a newsletter of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, is published in October, December, March, and May. As a matter of policy, all errors of substance are corrected in the next issue.

Report errors to [shepherdparknews@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdparknews@gmail.com).

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Dues and donations are deductible as charitable contributions.

## SPCA in Action

by Mark Pattison

### Advertise Here and Reach 100% of Your Neighbors!

The number of copies we're printing of the *Shepherd Park News* keeps rising with each issue – but we don't do the same with our advertising rates. With the Postal Service's Every Door Direct Mail program, we reach everybody in Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, and the Parks at Walter Reed. You can't ask for more than that!

#### Here are our ad rates:

Small banner ad: \$65

Large banner ad: \$125

Small box ad: \$125

Large box (quarter-page) ad: \$250

Quarter-page back-page premium:

Add \$25

Half-page (horizontal only): \$500

Full page: \$1,000

If you join the SPCA as a Platinum-level business member at \$150, you qualify for a \$100 advertising rebate you can apply with the next issue. (Gold memberships at \$100 and Silver memberships at \$50 are also available.)

And if you think your ad looks crisp in the newsletter, wait until you see it on the SPCA's website, [shepherdpark.org](http://shepherdpark.org), where it will appear in full color!

To inquire on how to get in on this, contact *Shepherd Park News* advertising manager Mark Pattison at (202) 829-9289 or [Pattison\\_mark@outlook.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@outlook.com).

### Yard Sale Revived!

Shepherd Park was known far and wide for its community-wide yard sales. The tradition was revived this fall with a yard sale September 7-8 sponsored jointly by the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, the Civic League of North Portal Estates, and the Brightwood Community Association. Dozens of homes across all these neighborhoods took part, with a big assist from Lowell School, which served as the central location for ambitious sellers. If you didn't take part this year, better luck next year!

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### Coat Drive Heralds Season of Giving

Come October, SPCA begins its annual children's winter coat drive for Hope and a Home, a transitional housing program in northwest Washington for homeless and low-income families. You can drop off new or gently used coats at Rex Cleaners, 7346 Georgia near Geranium. Rex's hours are 8-5:30 Mondays-Thursdays, 8-5 Fridays, and 8:30-5 Saturdays. Consult the Shepherd Park listserv for the sizes of coats needed. Consider getting coats for an entire family's children! Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves also are welcome.

We aim to wrap up the coat drive October 31. In November, we'll solicit Safeway and Giant grocery gift cards for the parents, and once that's taken care of, we aim to get their children gifts in time for the holidays. Keep looking at the listserv, as these drives make their impact known.

### Halloween Is Coming— Bwahahahaha!

Shepherd Park's first Halloween Parade was held 20 years ago. Can you believe it? Since then, it's grown into one of the neighborhood's signature events. Look for news on the Shepherd Park listserv about this year's parade – with the strong possibility of another pet parade as well – along with details on the annual Halloween house and pumpkin judging contests. We'll make October "Shocktober" yet! Not taking part in the parade? Then you may want to load up on tasty treats when the trick-or-treaters descend upon your block!

*SPCA's Halloween parade brings creatures big and small!*



Photo by Cynthia Prather

# Local Election Information

Compiled by Beth Allaben; Source: <https://dcboe.org>

## Election Day

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

## Ward 4 Specific Elections

### Ward 4 Member of the Council

- Janeese Lewis George

### Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

- T. Michelle Colson
- Frazier L. O'Leary, Jr.

### 4A Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners

- 4A01 – Paula Y. Edwards
- 4A02 – Joan Hoyte
- 4A03 – Christian X. Hara
- 4A04 – Patience R. Singleton
- 4A05 – none
- 4A06 – none
- 4A07 – none

## Also on the Ballot

- US President & Vice President
- Delegate to the US House of Representatives
- US (Shadow) Senator
- US (Shadow) Representative
- At-Large Member of the Council
- At-Large Member of the State Board of Education
- Ballot Initiative 83 - Ranked Choice Voting and Open The Primary
- Elections to Independent Voters Act of 2024

## Important Dates

Mon, Sept 30, 2024

Ballots begin to be mailed to all registered voters

Tues, Oct 15, 2024

Deadline to change party affiliation status

Deadline for receipt of voter registration applications (same day registration available at Vote Centers)

Mon, Oct 21, 2024

Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot requests (though all registered voters will be mailed ballots)

Tues, Nov 5, 2024

Election Day (no school for DCPS)

## 4 Ways to Vote

In person on election day at any precinct (you no longer have to go to your assigned precinct)

In person at any early vote center

Drop off the ballot you will receive in the mail at any mail ballot drop box

Mail in the ballot you will receive in the mail (must be received by Nov 15)

## Ward 4 Mail Ballot Drop Box Locations

Fri, Oct 11 – Tues, Nov 5 24/7 until 8 pm Nov 5

Shepherd Park (Juanita E. Thornton) Library  
7420 Georgia Ave NW

Hattie Holmes Wellness Center  
324 Kennedy St NW

Petworth Library  
4200 Kansas Ave NW

Fourth District Police Station - 600I Georgia Ave NW

Lamond Recreation Center  
20 Tuckerman St NE

Takoma Park Neighborhood Library - 416 Cedar St NW

## Ward 4 Early Vote Centers

Mon, Oct 28 – Sun, Nov 3 8:30 am – 7 pm

Emery Heights Community Center  
5801 Georgia Ave NW  
Gymnasium

Takoma Community Center  
300 Van Buren St NW  
Community Room

Raymond Recreation Center  
3725 10th St NW  
Gymnasium

## Ward 4 Election Day Vote Centers

Tues, Nov 5, 2024  
7 am – 8 pm

Shepherd Recreation Center - 7800 14th St NW  
Multi-Purpose Room

Barnard Elementary School - 430 Decatur St NW  
Auditorium

Emery Heights Community Center - 5801 Georgia Ave NW  
Gymnasium

Ft Stevens Recreation Center  
1327 Van Buren St NW  
Gymnasium

Ida B Wells Middle School  
405 Sheridan St NW  
Gymnasium

LaSalle-Backus Education Campus - 501 Riggs Rd NE  
Auditorium

Powell Elementary School  
1350 Upshur St NW  
Multi-Purpose Room

Raymond Recreation Center  
3725 10th St NW  
Gymnasium

St John's College High School  
2607 Military Rd NW  
Gymnasium

Takoma Community Center  
300 Van Buren St NW  
Community Room

Takoma Education Campus  
7010 Piney Branch Rd NW  
Gymnasium

## Meet the Candidates



**Paula Edwards, 4A01**

I am Paula Edwards, the incumbent ANC Commissioner for 4A01. The 2022-2024 cycle was my first term, where I learned that this volunteer job and full-time employment are not a good fit for me. Still, I discovered

how many dedicated public servants and private citizens are trying to improve our city despite structural challenges. I found that by working together, we can make changes. Against my better judgment, I am running again. If I am re-elected, I will work to improve public safety for crime and traffic, facilitate trash collection and vermin control, replace lead pipes, and systematize the maintenance of public spaces during my next term.



**Joan Hoyte, ANC 4A02**

Three of my ANC 4A colleague Commissioners are not seeking reelection and, up until a week before the deadline for reelection registration, I was in that category.

I'm running for a second term to keep our community on its current improvement and growth trajectory. Because—despite the unrelenting toll that serving has taken on my work and personal life, and despite the aspersions of some neighbors who have had no qualms about informing me that I've failed to live up to their unreasonable expectations—most of you understand that this is a difficult/thankless/payless job and have thanked me for my various achievements: getting DDOT to lower traffic speed bumps and install other traffic calming devices; securing a settlement agreement with Champion Kitchen; blocking the relocation of the Juanita-Thornton-Shepherd-Park Public Library; delivering a \$3000 grant to the Shepherd Elementary School PTO for extracurricular education activities; agitating for the timely removal/collection

*Continued on page 12*



**Christian Hara, ANC 4A03**

Hello, Shepherd Park! Some of you may know me. My name is Christian Hara, and I am running as the incumbent ANC for SMD 4A03, which encompasses the Parks at Walter Reed and parts of Shepherd Park

and Brightwood. I became ANC in May 2023 as a result of the special election after we lost the long-serving and hard-working Stephen Whatley. I live at the Brooks Condominium building on the Parks at Walter Reed campus, and I am an active member of our new community here at the Parks. I also am in a wheelchair and have greatly enjoyed serving the community for the last year and a half. We have a lot of new developments coming to the Parks at Walter Reed, including the DPR outdoor swimming pool - and I hope that I can continue to be of service and assistance to the neighborhood. Thank you for your trust in me, and please do not hesitate to reach out!



**Ward 4 City Council Candidate, Janeese Lewis George**

Janeese Lewis George is honored to serve as the DC Councilmember for Ward 4. She is a third generation Washingtonian and native of Ward 4. She is a graduate of DC Public Schools

and Howard University School of Law, and before she was elected in 2021 she served as an Assistant Attorney General under DC Attorney General Karl Racine.

During her first term on DC Council, Councilmember Lewis George has worked to bring resources to every part of Ward 4. She is a champion for housing, and has taken action against negligent landlords and introduced new ways for DC to produce deeply affordable housing. She's a powerful advocate for Ward 4's public schools, and created a school

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# Education

## Shepherd Elementary: A Year of Achievements; More to Come

Shepherd Elementary School Highlights, 2023-24  
by Shamayne Coles, Assistant Principal

- The musical “Annie Jr.”
- The school’s winter concert
- Shepherd’s “language concert” in French and Spanish
- The circus for students from PreK 4 to first grade
- The “French Café”
- Shepherd’s “Mardi Gras”
- Embassy adoption by the embassies of Ivory Coast and Uruguay
- The Black History program held at UDC
- The return of the Early Readers program
- Shepherd’s fifth grade debate team
- The third grade International Baccalaureate (IB) trip to Philadelphia, and the fourth grade IB trip to New York City
- The school’s annual International Day
- The “Annie Jr.” cast singing at the Kennedy Center
- The staff vs. parents kickball game
- Our “Strong Start” assemblies
- The Solar Eclipse event
- The fifth grade science fair
- Shepherd’s Field Day
- The school’s Art Show
- Our cheerleading squad
- Our iReady states we are one of the schools with the largest growth
- The IB ambassador program

### Upcoming for 2024-25

- IB field trips for all grade levels
- Continuing our focus on the Transcend “whole child” model
- Keeping our focus on math as we have seen so much growth already
- More DCIAA sports options – we need coaches!
- IB recertification

“Early Readers” Resumes Soon  
by Mark Pattison

Shepherd Elementary’s “Early Readers” program resumes in October. School staff identifies students from kindergarten through second grade who need a boost in their reading skills. Adult volunteers from the community read to, and with, those students at 8 am Tuesdays-Thursdays.

More adults are needed to help foster a love of reading. After passing a simple DC Public Schools background check, you can sign up for one, two, or three days per week. To learn more, get in touch with Judith McCullough at [mccullough.judith@gmail.com](mailto:mccullough.judith@gmail.com).



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# Garden Tour Highlights: Beautiful Memories; Tips for the Future

## Thanks for the Memories

by Yvette Pearson

The Garden Tour Committee would like to thank everyone that supported the 19th annual SPCA Garden Tour held this past Sunday, May 5. The event was well attended by neighbors in the community as well as visitors from many parts of the DC area. The featured gardens on the tour highlighted the diversity of beneficial landscapes.

The Committee truly appreciates the neighbors that volunteered their homes to showcase their gardening expertise and personal hobbies: Liz Crafford, Margery Goldberg, Cynthia and Bill Lightfoot, Kris Nelson, Yvette Pearson, and Rima Shaffer. These neighbors graciously received many visitors, and their home gardens were truly inspiring.

The Tour also featured larger landscapes that focused on the 'urban convenience of green spaces': the Great Lawn at the Parks at Walter Reed, Lowell School grounds, Ohev Shalom Community Gardens, and Shepherd Elementary School grounds. Each garden space provided a specialized focus for the ecological health of our environment.

The Committee also would like to thank the following: The Shepherd Park Christian Church, which served as our registration site/starting point and graciously provided tables for the ticket sales. The registration team including Paula Edwards, Brenda Mejia, Elizabeth MacDonald, Mark Pattison, and others. The on-site vendors, who offered gardening information, materials, and supplies, and Kathy Jentz (*Washington Gardener Magazine*) for promotion and press coverage.

The Garden Tour Sponsors: Brenda Mejia, East Rock Creek Village, Jason Cohen, Just That Simple, Kris Nelson, Ledo Pizza, Mid Atlantic Litter Cleanup Service, Modern Mobler, Northgate Realty, Rick Toye, The Travel Burrough, and Zenith Gallery, The SPCA Board of Directors for their overall guidance and encouragement and for carrying out the goals of the organization.

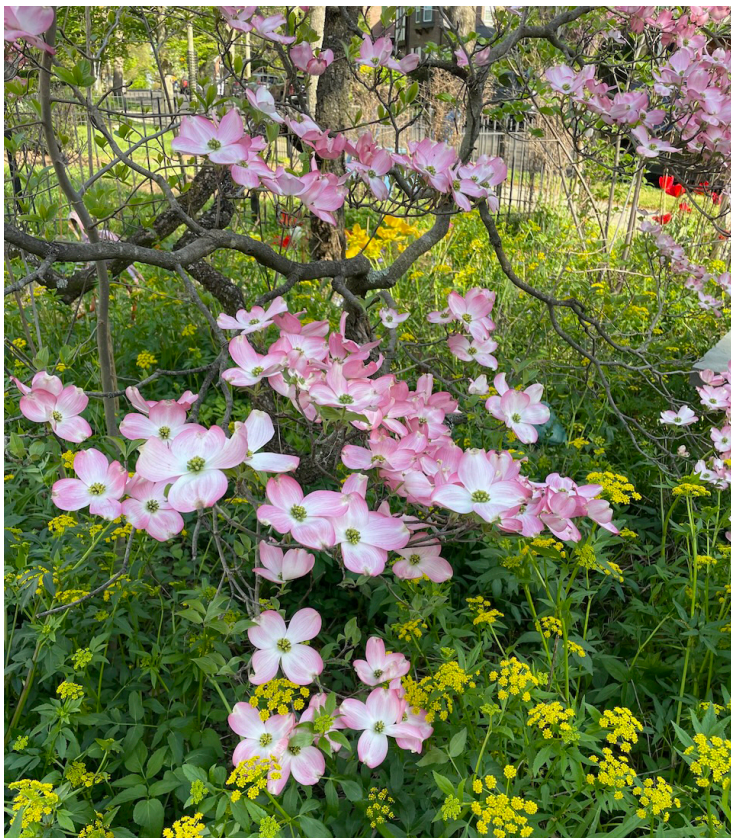
To all our volunteers and supporters, thank you for your wonderful commitment, effort, and support. The SPCA 19th Annual Garden Tour Committee Ralph Blessing, Elizabeth MacDonald, Brenda Mejia, Mark Pattison, Yvette Pearson, and Rick Toye.

## Preparing for Spring!

Prep your garden for next spring with these tips shared by two of this year's garden tour hosts.

From Kris Nelson: 1. Divide and/or move perennials, and plant new trees and evergreens to give them time to establish. 2. Prune and deadhead flowering plants as needed. 3. Plant fall bulbs (tulips, daffodils, crocus) in late October for early spring color. 4. Dethatch, aerate, fertilize, and/or reseed your lawn. 5. Rake leaves and use them in flower beds to shelter beneficial insects.

From Liz Crafford: "Fall is the time to plant perennials, shrubs, and trees for next year! Your new plants will have settling time, lower temperatures, and more moisture than other times of the year. Growing healthy roots is the key to sustaining healthy plants in the spring. Also, native spring ephemeral plants provide wonderful aesthetics and much needed nutrition and pollination for insects and other wildlife. For more details, see <https://www.finegardening.com/article/native-spring-ephemerals-for-the-mid-atlantic>



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# Community News

## DPR Jazz in the Parks

by Eleanor Lewis

It was a warm but breezy evening on Tuesday, 8/6, as Sharon Thomas and the Juke Joint band ushered in the start of the DPR Jazz in the Park concert series. The DPR website described the series as “pop-up jazz performances at scenic open spaces all over the District. These events are free, open to the public, and a great way to take advantage of DC’s tremendous park system.”

To the backdrop of Shepherd Field’s ever-present soccer players and tots running and playing on the field, a small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the jam session reminiscent of a scene from the film, “Mo Better Blues.” Tunes ranged from the up-tempo “Sledgehammer” by Peter Gabriel to the mellow vibrations of the Delfonics’ “La-La Means I Love You.” Band leader Thomas easily transitioned from the alto to the sleek soprano sax, to the delight of the crowd.

Other performances were scheduled at Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center (8/15), North Michigan Park (8/27) Hillcrest Recreation Center (9/10), and the Palisades Community Center (9/17). Bonus gift for attendance – A handy DPR Jazz in the Parks throw.



## News You Can Use Yard Waste Pick Up for Fall and Beyond

DPW’s yard waste collection program is year-round, but by appointment only. Residents must call 311 or visit 311.dc.gov to schedule pick up. Note that since 2021, yard waste is only collected in paper bags. DPW will collect up to 20 paper bags from residences that receive DPW’s trash and recycling collection services. For more details, visit <https://dpw.dc.gov/page/yard-waste-collection>

## Is Our Library Saved? We Think So

by Mark Pattison

The District budget for fiscal year 2025 includes a \$30 million commitment to a total rebuilding of the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library on its present site at 7420 Georgia. It’ll be a few years before the initial spending begins on site planning and architects.

But it comes at the expense of a new library along Kennedy Street, NW – which is where DC Public Library wanted to move our branch. The budget contains \$2 million for land acquisition along Kennedy Street to provide library services as part of a multi-service concept. DCPL refused to spend the \$5 million it was allocated last year for precisely this purpose. And the new budget repealed the Ward 4 Libraries Act, which would have guaranteed the Shepherd Park Library’s continued operation at its present site. The Friends of the Library will continue to critique DCPL’s practices and priorities, since it’s given our community ample reason to question what the agency’s up to.

## Is It Time to Downsize?

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# A 100th Birthday Wish Fulfilled: A Return to Shepherd Park

by Beth Allaben

Through a bit of serendipity, my husband and I recently met Winona Flyzik, whose wish for her 100th birthday was to visit her childhood home, which happens to be our house on Junquil Street.

Ms. Flyzik now lives at the Heatherwood Retirement Community in Burke, VA. Her birthday wish was granted by Heatherwood’s Life Enrichment Director, Tabitha Purcell. On a very hot day in July, Ms. Purcell drove from Burke to Shepherd Park to drop off a note explaining that she thought one of Heatherwood’s residents had grown up in our home.

As it happened, I had recently researched the past owners of our home (which is now easy to do on the DC Recorder of Deeds website with digitized records back to 1921; create a free account and then search at <https://countyfusion4.kofiletech.us/>).

I found that James and Margaret Bell were the original 1929 owners of our house. I also discovered that Dr. Bell lived in our home for 38 years until he died in 1967 and it was sold in 1968 by his two daughters, Virginia and Winona. As a result, I was quickly able to confirm ours was Ms. Flyzik’s home and we set a date for her visit. Ms. Flyzik was delighted to see much of the home looking the same, and remembered the front porch and the fireplace.

As we looked over the original 1929 Breuninger sales brochure for Shepherd Park homes, she shared some childhood memories. She was five years old when she moved and recalled attending Shepherd Elementary, Paul Junior High and Roosevelt Senior High Schools (Coolidge Senior High School was just being built). Her mother gave her rides to school or she took the streetcar down Georgia Avenue. Her father was the president of Southeastern University. When asked the biggest change, Ms. Flyzik pointed to “all the big trees. It’s so green now.”

I’m told that Ms. Flyzik was excited to share the details of her visit with the residents and staff at Heatherwood, and was later interviewed by Fox5DC. And we were delighted to meet an original resident of our home of 35 years.

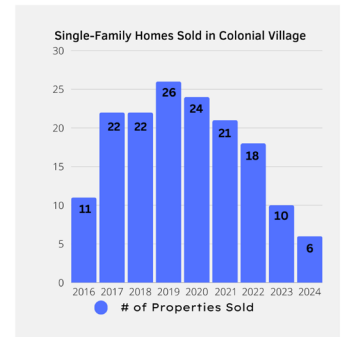
*If you have a story about your home or the “olden days” in the neighborhood, drop me a line ([beth.dc@verizon.net](mailto:beth.dc@verizon.net)) and perhaps we can include more community history in future issues of the Shepherd Park News.*



Photo by Tabitha Purcell

## Behind The Stats

There are more homes available than what you see in your online search. Some of these properties sold before they hit the market.



Want the inside scoop on properties you can't find online? Give me call anytime to discuss your needs and for a complimentary pricing evaluation of your home.



### Jason Cohen

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from page 1 *President's Letter*

experienced the comfort of the warm embrace of my friends, family, religious community, and neighbors. Even though how we experience events, both while they are happening and when we later look back at them, is not entirely within our control, we sometimes do have some control over what we focus on in our experiences and our memories.

We also have choices in how we build our lives and communities. Without the outpouring of support that I received, my sister's death would have been unalloyed sadness. I was profoundly thankful for the people who surrounded me. And though you cannot always choose your family, you can choose your community. We live in the finest community in the city. Our people are the most generous and thoughtful, welcoming and friendly. Making the choice to be a part of our community is making the choice to enjoy the warm embrace of friendship during good times and bad.

The arrival of fall brings many opportunities for collegiality, conversation, and community. The SPCA has recently coordinated a community-wide yard sale. Some people grew rich on the sale of their knickknacks; others found new treasures, and everyone enjoyed the sense of community that the yard sales brought. If you did not have the opportunity to participate in the yard sale this year, think ahead to some other community events, like the upcoming SPCA Annual Picnic. You can find details about it on the front page of the Shepherd Park News. And in October will come our annual Halloween festivities.

Please join your community and enjoy the friendship that participation will bring. Whether you simply attend events, volunteer to help coordinate or run an event, or volunteer to serve on the SPCA Board, we welcome you.

from page 5 *Joan Hoyte, ANC 4A02*

of debris/trash from around SES and throughout the community; supporting homeowners' BZA special exceptions applications; requesting trash cans for new neighbors; and applying for residential handicap parking signs. Most of those accomplishments would not have happened without the unwavering comradery of my colleague Commissioner Paula Edwards; and none without your election of me two years ago. I humbly ask for your vote again on November 5.

from page 5 *Ward 4 City Council Candidate, Janeese Lewis George*  
 readiness checklist that has been adopted across the District. She focused intensive resources in neighborhoods with high rates of violence and has worked in partnership with our District agencies tasked with safety. She has made proactive community engagement a hallmark of her leadership through Community Access, Resource, and Engagement (CARE) Days that meet neighbors on their doorsteps and bring resources and services to residents directly. Councilmember Lewis George lives in Manor Park with her husband Kyle and their dog, Sully.





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## Local Development

### The Parks at Walter Reed More Neighbors, More Retail, More Fun!

Source: Kenza Sijelmassi, Urban Atlantic; Pool Update  
by Beth Allaben

The Parks at Walter Reed had a summer of progress with more residences, retail, and amenities.

**Residences.** The number of new neighbors at The Parks at Walter Reed continued to climb, with The Vale (310 units), HELP USA, and Abrams units fully occupied. The Brooks (89 units) is sold out, the Aspen Square Townhomes are selling, and the Hartley is leasing its final units. The recently completed Clover and Renard are now leasing as well.

**Marketplace Enhancements.** New businesses opened on the Marketplace Plaza: DC Pop-Up, Charmery (a Baltimore-based ice cream shop), and District Dogs, and Livewell (a veterinarian) is opening soon. Construction is scheduled to begin on the McCuiston Group (pediatrician), Pere Wine Bar, Arts Plaza food and beverage concept, and Slice & Pie (pizza shop). Manicured green space, inviting seating, a cooling splash pad, and game equipment complement the retail space. For a list of fall activities, visit The events calendar at <https://theparksdc.com/events/>

**Pool Update.** At an August 19 meeting, DC Department of Parks and Recreation reported that the planning for an outdoor pool at Walter Reed is back on track. Challenges with utilities and easements have been resolved, and DPR expects to hold community meetings to finalize the pool design this fall, with construction to begin in Summer 2026 and end in Summer 2027. The pool will be located along Aspen Street near the power plant, and DPR will renovate the historic small brick mechanics shop to be the pool house.



### Beech Tree Place Affordability, Space, and Convenience

Source: Shepherd Park listserv, 7/31/24

Beech Tree Place: the new apartment building at 7428 Georgia Avenue, is now leasing! The building includes 66 affordable apartments for DC residents earning no more than 50% of the area median income—\$54,150 for a household of 1, and \$61,900 for a household of 2. Studios, 1-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units are available. And it's conveniently located just steps to Georgia Avenue bus lines, businesses, and the Shepherd Park/Juanita Thorton Library, and a short walk to downtown Silver Spring and Red Line Metro. For more information, visit <https://beechtreeplaceapts.com>, <https://lock7.com/projects/multi-family-project/>, and <https://dhcd.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dhcd/publication/attachments/2024-2025%20IZ%20ADU%20price%20schedule%20-%202024-8-30.pdf>

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## Business Beat

by Cynthia Prather

### Merry Pin: Crafts, Café, and Community in Shepherd Park

The corner of Georgia and Geranium is a more colorful, inviting place since Merry Pin, the community-based cafe and craft hub, opened on June 15. Merry Pin is the brainchild of Megan Flynn, Michele Molotsky, and Madeleine Odendahl, three local friends turned entrepreneurs living out a dream to create a place where they and others who share a love for crafting could gather and craft. With support from Kickstarter, a crowd-funding site, the owners secured and renovated the Georgia and Geranium site.

Merry Pin, an English idiom meaning to be happy and in good spirits, is reflected throughout the space, with lots of light, happy colors, and creative furnishings. A throw-back counter invites customers to pastries, ice cream sandwiches, snacks, and drinks.

In addition, the owners see knitting, crocheting, and other crafts as an important way to create happy feelings. “A lot of people started or rediscovered crafting during the pandemic,” Odendahl shared. “It’s a way to relax, connect, and create



Photo Credit: Merry Pin

*Merry Pin, a place for crafting and connecting, is the realized dream of (from left to right) Megan Flynn, Michele Molotsky, and Madeleine Odendahl.*

something that brings joy. For younger people, it’s also a time to experience the joy of making something on their own. I’ve seen kids get lost in figure knitting and crocheting.”

Although Merry Pin sells craft materials and supplies, it offers much more. “We offer experience, knowledge, and connection,” said Odendahl. “Crafting is intended to be a communal activity. People connect, talk, and learn from each other.” The Merry Pin October calendar offers a

wide range of activities, including the “Sip and Stitch,” which Odendahl describes as “beautiful and so much fun!” For details, visit <https://www.merrypindc.com/events>.

The owners extend a warm thank you to the community for supporting them during their first months in Shepherd Park. “We have really felt welcome. Keep coming to say hi.”

### Target Windows: What’s the Real Story?

*Includes excerpts from emails from Paula Edwards, Shepherd Park Listserv, Wed, July 17.*

Target windows along Eastern and Georgia Avenues have been boarded for weeks, and rumors are swirling. Was it robbery? A shooting? Is the store closing? What’s going on? As reported by Paula Edwards via email from Captain Hallahan of the 4th District, below is the real story concerning the boarded windows at Target and Morris Miller.

*“An individual, possibly having a mental health crisis, broke into the windows of the Target and the liquor store. He went into Silver Spring, where he destroyed more windows and was ultimately stopped and arrested by Maryland Police. I am not certain what other damage to businesses he caused, but our Detectives will follow up on these similar cases.”*

Commissioner Edwards also learned from the store manager that the broken glass is a special type that will take some time to replace.

As reported to Cynthia Prather by Target management on 8/30, no date has been set for when the windows will be replaced. “We want to make sure that it doesn’t happen again,” responded the manager.

*Thanks to Commissioner Edwards for her due diligence on this issue and the encouragement to support our local retailers. To reach Captain Hallahan, (MPD), send a message to [Brian.Hallahan@dc.gov](mailto:Brian.Hallahan@dc.gov).*



#### Merry Pin

Craft Store Café Community  
7350 Georgia Avenue NW

[www.MerryPinDC.com](http://www.MerryPinDC.com)

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @MerryPinDC

## Community Calendar, October-November 2024

### Ongoing

**Community Swim Team**  
Lowell School  
1640 Kalmia Rd NW  
Fall swim team for kids 18 and under. Registration now open.

Wednesdays in October,  
10:30-11 am  
Sat Oct 5, 11-11:30 am  
**Family Story Time**  
Shepherd Park Library

Sundays, 10 am  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church Worship Service**  
7720 Alaska Ave NW  
*Refreshments served after worship.*

Sundays, 12-3 pm  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church Thrift Store**  
7720 Alaska Ave NW

Fridays, 5-6 pm  
**Vigil Against Racism**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
7701 16th St NW  
*Stand in solidarity with Black Lives. Bring a sign or get one from the organizers.*

**Weed Warriors Invasive Plant Removal**  
Shepherd Field  
Multiple dates:  
Sat, Oct 5, 9-11 am  
Sun, Oct 20, 2-4 pm  
Sat, Nov 9, 9-11 am  
Sun Nov 17, 2-4 pm

### October

Tue, Oct 1, 10:30-11 am  
**Baby Lap Time**  
Shepherd Park Library

Tue, Oct 1, 7 pm  
**ANC 4A Monthly Meeting**

Visit [Anc.4A.org](http://Anc.4A.org) for details

Wed, Oct 2, 6:30 pm  
**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
7701 16th St NW  
Evening of Rosh HaShana

Thu & Fri, Oct 3 & 4, 9 am  
**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
First & Second day of Rosh HaShana

Sat, Oct 5, 11 am  
**Tot Shabbat**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at [bit.ly/TITotShabbat](http://bit.ly/TITotShabbat)*

Sun Oct 6, 1:30-3:30 pm  
**Bringing the Law Library to the Community**  
Shepherd Park Library

Sun, Oct 6, 2-4 pm  
**Monthly Nature Hike**  
Pine/Holly Trailhead at 16th & Holly Street NW

Fri, Oct 11, 6 pm  
**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
Kol Nidre

Sat, Oct 12, 9 am & 7:15 pm  
**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
Yom Kippur & Break Fast  
*Go to <https://bit.ly/BreakFast85> to sign up.*

Thu, Oct 17  
**4D CAC Regular Monthly Meeting**  
MPD 4D Headquarters  
6001 Georgia Ave NW  
Visit [4dcac.org](http://4dcac.org) for details

Thu & Fri, Oct 17 & 18, 9 am  
**Sukkot Services**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
First & Second day Sukkot

Sat, Oct 19, 11 am  
**Tot Shabbat**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at [bit.ly/TITotShabbat](http://bit.ly/TITotShabbat)*

Sat, Oct 19, 11 am-3 pm  
**LPC Fall Bazaar**  
Lowell School  
1640 Kalmia Rd NW  
*Fun activities, rides, and food trucks. (Ticket costs and food trucks TBA.)*

Sun, Oct 20, 10:30 am  
**Reconsidering Jewish Migration to the US**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at <https://bit.ly/ReconsideringJewishMigration>*

Tue, Oct 22, 7:30 pm  
**14 Days Away: The 2024 Election w/ Political and policy experts, Bill Galston and Howard Gleckman**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at <https://bit.ly/14days85>*

Thu, Oct 24, 7 pm  
**Sukkot Services**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
Simchat Torah

Fri, Oct 25, 9 am  
**Sukkot Services**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
Simchat Torah

Sat, Oct 26, 10 am-4 pm and Sun, Oct 27, 1-4 pm  
**Friends of the Library Used Book Sale**  
Shepherd Park Library  
7420 Georgia Ave NW

Mon, Oct 28, 6:30 pm  
**Black Voices Book Club**  
Shepherd Park Library

### November

Sat, Nov 2, 11 am  
**Tot Shabbat**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
7701 16th Street NW  
*Learn more at [bit.ly/TITotShabbat](http://bit.ly/TITotShabbat)*

Sun Nov 3, 1:30-3:30 pm  
**Bringing the Law Library to the Community**  
Shepherd Park Library

Sun, Nov 3, 2-4 pm  
**Monthly Nature Hike**  
Pine/Holly Trailhead near 16th & Holly Street NW

Wed, Nov 6, 7 pm  
**ANC 4A Monthly Meeting**  
Visit [Anc.4A.org](http://Anc.4A.org) for details

Sun, Nov 10, 10:30 am  
**Reconsidering Jewish Migration to the US**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at <https://bit.ly/ReconsideringJewishMigration>*

Sat, Nov 16, 11 am  
**Tot Shabbat**  
Tifereth Israel Congregation  
*Learn more at <https://bit.ly/TITotShabbat>*

Thu, Nov 21  
**4D CAC Regular Monthly Meeting**  
MPD 4D Headquarters  
6001 Georgia Avenue NW  
Visit [4dcac.org](http://4dcac.org) for details

Mon, Nov 25, 6:30 pm  
**Black Voices Book Club**  
Shepherd Park Library

Thu, Nov 21, 6:30pm  
**Friends of the Library Meeting Via Zoom**  
Visit [saveourdclibrary.org](http://saveourdclibrary.org) for details

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