



Shepherd Park News

Vol. 25, Issue 3

Serving Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, and Walter Reed

OCT/NOV 2025

President's Letter

by Micah Salb

The arrival of fall often feels like the beginning of a new year. It is indeed the beginning of the year for people in school, it is the beginning of the year for your Jewish neighbors, and as summer ends and life resumes in Washington, it feels like the beginning of the year to almost everyone.

This is also true for the Shepherd Park Citizens Association. The SPCA has recently held its Annual Membership Meeting. We had strong community participation and universal support for our slate of candidates. I am pleased to welcome the new members of our Board of Directors: Shaila Cordone, Sarah Gershman, David Hain, Roger Limoges, and Elizabeth MacDonald. Each of them is deeply committed to improving the neighborhood and they all have lots of energy. And I am deeply gratified to retain the hard work of our returning members, Tomiko Burroughs, Jackson Carnes, Paula Edwards, Pati Griffith, Joan Hoyte, and Mark Pattison. And though they are only ex-officio members of the Board, Cynthia Prather and Yvette Pearson continue on leading the newsletter committee and the garden tour committee—two of our most important functions. We look forward to a year of great events and more opportunities for neighbors to grow their relationships with each other and the community as a whole.

Please remember that the SPCA is an all-volunteer organization. The SPCA depends on your support for its continued vitality. If you are not a current member, or if you are unsure whether you have renewed, please join us or renew! It is easy to do; just visit www.ShepherdPark.org and click on the Join or Renew button.

Joining the SPCA is a great support for the organization, but if you wish to participate more actively, please contact Roger Limoges, our Secretary and chair of the Membership Committee, by email to membership@shepherdpark.org. We will happily find a role for you!

Finally, I want to highlight an important and fun function of the SPCA: Neighborhood beautification. One of the most important missions of the SPCA is to make the neighborhood more beautiful. Not only does it make life more beautiful, but it also deters crime and improves the environment. Do you know of a public spot that could use some beautification? Let the SPCA know. The SPCA can provide grants for planters, plants, seating, and other ways of making our community better.

Please join me in renewing your commitment to our neighbors and neighborhood at the “start” of the new year!



Photo by Cynthia Prather

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SPCA Seeks Ghoulish Volunteers!

For many years, the SPCA has hosted a bunch of fun Halloween activities, and we need help to keep them going! We expect to hold our usual Halloween activities, including the Kids' Parade at Shepherd Field, the Doggie Parade, creating a list of houses where candy will be distributed, a House Decorating Contest, and a Pumpkin-Carving Contest.

These activities don't take a ton of work, but they do require a little bit of time and attention, so we turn to you. Are you willing to volunteer for one or more of our Halloween festivities? Please let us know. It's fun, rewarding, and a great way to immerse yourself deeper in our community.

To find how you can help out this Halloween, contact Mark Pattison, chair of the SPCA's Halloween Committee, at pattison_mark@outlook.com



Welcome

Welcome to Sharrese Castillo, the new branch manager for the Juanita E. Thonrton/Shepherd Park Library. See more library news on p. 6.



Yard Sale Brings Smiles

Dozens of neighbors signed up to display and sell their wares at this year's Shepherd Park Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale. A tip of the cap to SPCA Yard Sale chair Shaila Cordone, who took the reins and made it such a successful event.



Jackie Knightshade (left) and Deborah Campbell (right) in front of Jackie's house on Floral Street.

Photo by Judith McCullough

Board of Directors

Micah Salb, President

(202) 288-2536

President@shepherdpark.org

Mark Pattison, Vice President

(202) 829-9289

pattison_mark@outlook.com

Paula Edwards, Treasurer

(202) 909-7156

Treasurer@shepherdpark.org

Roger Limoges,

Recording Secretary

Secretary@shepherdpark.org

Membership Secretary

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Elizabeth MacDonald

Delegate to the Federation of Community Associations

Vacant

Delegate to the Federation of Civic Associations

Tomiko Burroughs

tomikoburroughs@gmail.com

Jackson Carnes, Past President

(202) 316-3537

Jackson.carnes@gmail.com

Contact the Editors!

Whether it's a letter to the editor, info on a community event, or an ad, we'd love to hear from you!

Editor:

Cynthia Prather

(202) 882-7419

news@shepherdpark.org

Advertising:

Mark Pattison

(202) 829-9289

spnewsads@gmail.com

Community Calendar Editor

Carolyn Braxton

Graphic Artist

Patti Scully-Lane



Our programs, events, and services help older adults thrive and live independently in their own homes in the neighborhoods they love.

There are many ways to become involved...

VOLUNTEER... share your time, give a ride to a neighbor, help with tech, make new friends.

ENJOY... exercise classes, museum visits, lunches, happy hours, holiday parties.

JOIN... become a member of our caring community.



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 news@shepherdpark.org.

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

Special Meeting Launches New Program Year

by Cynthia Prather

Pursuant to the SPCA bylaws, the Shepherd Park Citizens Association held a Special Meeting in lieu of the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday evening, September 10, beginning at 7:00, via Zoom video.

A key activity of this meeting was the election of the officers and members of the Board of Directors (see page 2). A profile of the new Membership Secretary, Roger Limoges, is below. (Watch upcoming newsletters for introductions to other new board members.) The agenda also included updates from Councilmember George's office and a Howard University presentation on the proposed Urgent Care Center in Building 6 at Walter Reed.

Meet New Board Member Roger Limoges below. Watch upcoming newsletters for introductions to other new board members.

Roger Limoges, Secretary, SPCA

Roger Limoges has lived in Colonial Village on 16th & Juniper Street since 2016 with his husband Jeff and their rescue dogs. He has lived in the District since 1997. Professionally, Roger serves as Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Policy at The Global Network for Zero, where he works to empower people and organizations to accelerate the realization of a zero emissions world. He previously served in senior executive roles at The U.S. Green Building Council and at other not-for-profit organizations focusing on reproductive health care, campaign finance reform, and First Amendment issues. In 2022, Roger was appointed by Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George to the Ward 4 Redistricting Task Force. Roger is an avid gardener and an outdoor Halloween decoration enthusiast.




SPCA's Annual Winter Coat Drive Underway Throughout October

by Mark Pattison


If you've got any hand-me-down-able coats for kids hanging around your house, hold on to them.

The SPCA's annual Children's Winter Coat Drive is being conducted during the month of October in conjunction with Hope and a Home, which transitions DC families from homelessness to sustainable apartment living. Watch the listserv for details about family and child information.

Don't have kids' coats at your abode? We certainly take new coats as well!



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ANC Updates

ANC Commissioners, 2025-2026

SMD	Commissioner	Area	Email
4A01	Paula Y. Edwards Chair	Colonial Village, North Portal, Shepherd Park	4A01@anc.dc.gov
4A02	Joan Hoyte Vice Chair	Central Shepherd Park	4A02@anc.dc.gov
4A03	Christian Hara Secretary	Lower Shepherd Park, Walter Reed	4A03@anc.dc.gov
4A04	Patience Singleton	Central Brightwood	4A04@anc.dc.gov
4A05	Jeffrey Holliday	Brightwood	4A05@anc.dc.gov
4A06	Vacant	Brightwood	4A06@anc.dc.gov
4A07	Vacant	Brightwood	4A07@anc.dc.gov

Meeting Schedule for FY 2026 (Virtual, 7 pm)

Oct 7, 2025	Feb 3, 2026	June 9, 2026
Nov 4, 2025	Mar 3, 2026	Jul (TBD)
Dec 2, 2025	Apr 7, 2026	
Jan 6, 2026	May 5, 2026	

Recent Actions

Stop the Surge: Commissioners considered a resolution to support ending the Trump Administration “surge” on Washington, DC but did not pass it due to need for further discussion among the Commissioners.

Walter Reed Pool Work Stops: ANC Commissioners expressed disappointment at the stop work order of the indoor pool on the Walter Reed campus, which had been included in the original plans for the campus. As reported by the Department of General Services (DGS), the plans were halted due to historical issues, underground utilities, and a street culvert. Visit the DGS website for more information. (dgs.dc.gov/page/walter-reed-pool). Although DGS is looking at other options for an outdoor pool, they have not yet identified any feasible location.

Deposit or No Deposit: ANC Commissioners discussed a possible resolution for The DC Bottle Bill, formally the Recycling, Refund, and Litter Reduction Amendment Act of 2025. The bill introduced in January 2025 to establish a 10-cent deposit on beverage containers like bottles and cans in an effort to reduce litter and increase recycling rates in the city. (For more details on the DC Bottle Bill, visit <https://brianneknadeau.com/councilmembers-announce-major-environmental-legislation/>.) Citing studies that show that these types of programs are not as effective unless

surrounding jurisdictions have similar programs, ANC 4A voted to submit a resolution to the DPR Committee asking that the council work with DC’s neighboring jurisdictions to create a regional strategy.

Missing Trash Cans: Per constituent requests, ANC Commissioner Paula Edwards researched the disappearance of several public trash receptacles that were once at former bus stops along upper 16th Street. Findings: With bus stops removed, those spaces are no longer public spaces but now statutorily residential property, where public cans cannot be placed. It will likely take significant effort to have the cans returned.

ANC 4A Has Grant Money: After reviewing financial reports for FY 2025, ANC 4A learned that it has \$98,000 available for neighborhood grants, which will be carried over into FY 2026, beginning Oct 1. ANC 4A will be accepting applications now on October 7 and again at the November monthly meeting. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to apply! For more information or copies of the application, contact Paula Edwards at 4A01@anc.dc.gov.

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School News

Back to School, 2025

By Cynthia Prather

Parents and grandparents, teachers, neighbors, city officials, and parent/Mayor Muriel Bowser formed a welcoming crowd for opening day at Shepherd Elementary on August 25. With 415 students, Shepherd is at full capacity this year.

Lowell School, the private educational community at 16th and Kalmia serving children from pre-k to grade 8, celebrates 60 years of service and 26 years in Shepherd Park. The school welcomes non-Lowell students to participate in swimming lessons and other after-school activities.

DC International School, the advanced language public charter school on the Parks at Walter Reed Campus, opened on August 25. DCI serves over 1,600 students, grades 6-12.

Photos by Cynthia Prather



Photo by Herbert Perryman, Jr.

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Library News



KRIS NELSON



This year our Shepherd Park home turns 100, part of a century of memories shared across these historic streets. Whether you're passing on a cherished legacy or stepping in as a new neighbor, I'm here to help.



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Sales Associate, Office of Daryl Judy

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Changing of the Guard at The Shepherd Park Library

by Cynthia Prather and Mark Pattison

On May 31, Shepherd Park bade a fond farewell to Deborah Hirsch, the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park (JET/SP) Neighborhood Library's now former head librarian, who worked most of her three-year DCPL career in Shepherd Park. Hirsch departed our branch to become the new manager at Takoma Library!

SPCA also extends a warm welcome to the new JET/SP branch Manager, Sharrese Castillo, who started in June. A resident of Takoma, MD, Castillo looks forward to her new assignment in here Shepherd Park.

Other Library News

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library will take place Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 pm, in the library. The guest speaker will be Kyla Sommers, author of *After the Smoke Cleared*, about the tumult in DC after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. In addition, officers will be elected. Stepping down as treasurer since 2020 is Carl Bergman, a recipient of the SPCA's Joe Hairston Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement. We'll miss him more than we can say.

For other upcoming events, see the Community Calendar on p. 11.

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Summer Memories

Floral Street Celebrates Jackson-Reed Graduates

by Kerri Gilmore Mesiah

On June 8th, the 1400 block of Floral Street was rocking as over 350 people gathered for a celebration of new high school graduates Scott Mesiah (Purdue), Rockwell Lewis (University of MD), Edith Corrigan Conaty (Scripps College), and Jack Corrigan Conaty (Kenyon College). Scott and Rockwell are Floral Street residents, and all four of them graduated from Jackson-Reed High School. All the attendees enjoyed a delightful array of food, drinks, music, and games. The ice cream cart was particularly popular and added a sweet touch to the joyous occasion..



Signs of the Times
Yard signs expressed views about issues of the season.



Lots of Music

East Rock Creek Village sponsored summertime jazz.



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Willem de Looper
Susan Due Percy
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Robert Indiana
Robert Goodnough
Richard Anuszkiewicz
Max Papart * Larry Zox
Jean Arp * Max Ernst
Jack Youngerman
Ilya Bolotowsky
Joseph Solman
Victor Vasarely
William T. Wiley
Jackie Battenfield
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Etchings

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Georges Rouault
Leonard Baskin
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Where We Live

Yaw Darko: Delivering Every Day for You

by Mark Pattison

Yaw Darko has been delivering newspapers for 18 years, including the last six in Shepherd Park. His “route” takes him from Walter Reed to the Maryland line, from Georgia Avenue to 16th Street.

When he started delivering here, he had 220 daily customers. By September 2024, the growth of online subscriptions had cut that to 170. After the *Washington Post* pulled a Kamala Harris endorsement from its editorial pages last October, Darko said he lost “a lot, a lot, a lot” of customers. That only accelerated when the Post nixed an editorial cartoon (which won a Pulitzer Prize) showing Post owner Jeff Bezos and other billionaire types bowing before an image of Donald Trump.

Today he has 125 daily and 225 Sunday customers.

Every day, Darko arrives at the newspaper warehouse on South Dakota Avenue NE near the Goodwill by 2 am (It’ll move to White Oak by year’s end.) He delivers the *Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Times*, the *Financial Times* and *USA Today*. On Sundays he shows up by 12:30 am to start his work.

This year, the *Post* raised the price of the daily paper from \$3 to \$4, and the Sunday paper from \$5 to \$6. Last year, the *New York Times* upped the home-delivery charge of its Sunday paper – cover price \$6 – to \$20. But Darko doesn’t get a cut of that. In fact, he was stunned to hear the Sunday Times’ price. As an “independent contractor,” he gets a set price to start spreadin’ the news.

Most days, he’s on his route before 4 am, as the *Post* wants its papers on people’s porches by 6 am (8 am Sundays). If you hear conversation before the thwack of the newspaper against your door, Darko’s likely talking to family and friends in his native Ghana. He spent a month and a half this year visiting them; two years ago, he spent three months there.

If you think Darko’s day is done before most others’ begins, think again. When he’s finished delivering, he drives to Baltimore to put in a 12-hour shift doing home care. When does he sleep? “Tell me about it!” he laughed.





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Ad submission deadline date for next issue: October 31.

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Neighborhood News

In Memoriam: Dolores Hill Bondurant

by Beth Allaben

On March 3, 2025, Shepherd Park lost longtime neighbor, Dolores Hill Bondurant, who passed away at the age of 92. A 60-year Shepherd Park resident, Dolores cared deeply about her community, serving as Shepherd Park Citizens Association treasurer from 2002-2004 and volunteering during Ward 4 elections.



Born in Richmond, VA, she moved to the Bronx, NY, before attending Morgan State College, where she joined Delta Sigma Theta sorority and met her future husband, Frank Bondurant. Her passion for the French language led her to study at the College of Saint Catherine in Rennes, France, and complete graduate studies at Iowa State University and Howard University. She taught French for 30 years at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she helped establish The Language House, an immersive language dormitory, serving as its director from 1991 to 1998. After retiring, Dolores remained engaged in language and culture, meeting former colleagues and friends on Saturdays at Kefa Café in Silver Spring to converse in French.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Frank, and devoted daughter, Alison. She was predeceased by her cherished son, Frank Jr.

Local Crime Data Available Online

by Cynthia Prather

At September's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) meeting, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) reintroduced Crime Cards, an interactive online resource developed by MPD and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) that allows residents to track, via "hot maps," crime throughout the city by type, location, date, and other factors. Colorful maps and graphs provide data visualizations of occurrences and trends across all eight wards. Residents can see today's statistics and compare it with occurrences one year earlier. To access Crime Cards, visit <http://crimecards.dc.gov>.



The Crime Cards system makes crime data from across the city readily available.

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September 5 - October 18, 2025

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Hillary Steel
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New Works by Katharine Owens

October 24 – November 29, 2025

Meet the Artist Reception:

Friday Oct 24, 4-8 pm &
Saturday Oct 25, 2-6 pm

Artist talk: Saturday October 25 at 4 pm
1429 Iris Street NW, Washington DC, 20012



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Business Beat

Development Update: The Parks at Walter Reed

by Dorina Bekoe

The Parks at Walter Reed continues to grow! While the community will miss Jinya Ramen Bar, which closed on September 14, the neighborhood can look forward to some exciting developments.

Hazel's Hardware

Hazel's Hardware, a 18,000 square foot True-Value Hardware store with a coffee shop, and office space is slated to open at The Parks in October, according to the *Washington Informer*. Hazel's, which is 100% minority owned, is named for Brigadier General Hazel-Johnson Brown, the first Black female general in the Army. Gen. Brown was chief of the Army Nurse Corps, which was once housed in the place where Hazel's Hardware will be. The hardware store is projected to result in 33 new jobs, with two-thirds of the positions paying at or above a living wage and providing full fringe benefits, according to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation.



Howard University Emergency Department and Urgent Care

As presented in the Washington Business Journal and several community meetings, Howard University has selected to construct an emergency department and an urgent care center in Building 6 at the Parks at Walter Reed. Subject to regulatory approval, and with the support they hope to have from the community, they expect to open in the first half of 2028.

Juneberry Garage

Construction continues for Juneberry Garage's indoor space, which will feature a bar and cafe. In the meantime, we can continue to enjoy Juneberry from the Airstream (outdoor space), Thursday through Sunday.

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Tropical Smoothie Café: Tasty, Healthy Eating!

by Cynthia Prather

Tropical Smoothie Café, the trendy new eatery at the southeastern corner of the Walter Reed campus, opened to the community on July 26, with sandwiches, wraps, and custom smoothies replacing sugary soft drinks as the major drink option.

Owned by native Washingtonians Kenneth Washington and Antoinette Bailey, this retired husband-and-wife team pooled their professional expertise to bring healthy food options to this part of Washington, DC. As successful DC high school graduates, they also want to use this business venture to help prepare today's youth for the world of work. Eighty-five percent of their staff are from the DC International School, on the southwestern end of Walter Reed.

"We love the brand...and the location," commented Washington, who acknowledged Randall Clarke, Director, Walter Reed Local Redevelopment Authority, for his support. "We want to plant seeds in the community."

Tropical Smoothie Café

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Hours:

M-F: 7 am – 9 pm

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Community Calendar, October/November 2025

Ongoing

First Tuesdays, 7 pm
ANC 4A Monthly Meeting
 Visit [Anc4A.org](https://www.anc4a.org) for details

3rd Thursdays, 7 pm
4d MPD Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)
 In Person or Via Zoom

Fridays, 5 pm
Vigil Against Racism
<https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/vigil-against-racism26.html>
 Corner of Juniper & 16th St
 All are welcome – signs provided or bring one of your own

Shepherd Park/Juanita E. Thornton Public Library

First Thursdays, 4 pm
Kids' Paint -n- Sip
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Kids are invited to embrace their creative side with an afternoon of painting!

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 4 pm
Pajama Story Time
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Put on your PJs, bring a stuffed friend, and head to the library for our evening pajama story time.

Third Fridays, 4 pm
Story Time for the Spectrum
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 This story time includes sensory-friendly activities designed to be enjoyed by children with autism and other disabilities.



October

Sun Oct 4, 1 pm
Readings From Banned Books
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Join Friends members in reading from banned and challenged books outside the library.

Sat, Oct 4, 4-7 pm
Jazz in the Parks
 The Great Lawn at The Parks
 1301 Main Drive
 FREE

Jazz in the Parks & Blues Alley Present
The Blues Alley Youth Quartet followed by Herm Hopkins Soul Quartet with opener Baba Ras D
<https://theparksdc.com/event/jazz-in-the-parks/>

Sun, Oct 5, 1:30-3:30 pm
Law Library
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 A law library that helps people do legal research so they can address their own legal problems

Tue, Oct 7, 5-6:30 pm
Adult Bee-ginners Embroidery
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Beginners will learn embroidery terms, tools, stitches, materials, and patterns in order to make a design.

Fri, Oct 10, 5:30-7:30 pm
Happy Hour, All DC Music
 The Marketplace Plaza at The Parks
 7175 12th Street, NW
 FREE
<https://theparksdc.com/event/happy-hour/>



Tue, Oct 14, 5-6:30 pm
Adult Intermediate Embroidery
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Create simple and complex stitching patterns

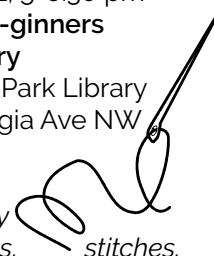
Thu, Oct 16, 5-6:30 pm
D.C. Trivia Night
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Join us and see how much you really know about the District of Columbia. Answer questions about DC history correctly in order to win prizes!

Sun, Oct 19, 12-4 pm
Fall Festival
 Shepherd Elementary School
 7800 14th St NW
 Music – Food – Games – Crafts
 Bring the whole family and connect with the Shepherd community!

Sun, Oct 19, 12-5 pm
Fall Mezzanine Vintage & Vinyl Festival
 The Marketplace Plaza at The Parks
 7175 12th Street, NW
 FREE
<https://theparksdc.com/event/mezzanine-vintage-and-vinyl-spring-festival/>

Tue, Oct 21, 5-6:30 pm
Adult Bee-ginners Embroidery
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Beginners will learn embroidery terms, tools, stitches, material and patterns in order to make a design

Sat, Oct 25, 10am-4 pm
Friends Used Book Sale
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW



Sun, Oct 26, 1-4 pm
Friends Used Book Sale
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW

Sun, Oct 26, 4-6 pm
Nat Geo Kids Greeking Out Podcast Live Performance
 The Great Lawn at The Parks
 1301 Main Drive NW
 FREE
<https://theparksdc.com/event/nat-geo-greeking-out-podcast-live-performance/>

Tue, Oct 28, 5-6:30 pm
Adult Intermediate Embroidery
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 Create simple and complex stitching patterns

November

Tue, Nov 4, 6:30 pm
Annual Friends of the Library Public Meeting
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW
 With author Kyla Sommers ("When the Smoke Cleared"), guest speaker

Sat, Nov 15, 12-5 pm
The Parks Holiday Market & Celebration
 The Marketplace Plaza at The Parks
 7175 12th Street, NW
 FREE
<https://theparksdc.com/event/fall-festival-holiday-market/>

Sat, Nov 15, 1:30-3:30 pm
Parks History Walking Tour
 The Marketplace Plaza at The Parks
 7175 12th Street, NW
 *Tickets required
<https://theparksdc.com/event/the-parks-history-walking-tour-walkingtowndc/>

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