



Local Primaries on June 16. Remember to Vote!

Shepherd Park News

Vol. 26. Issue 2

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

May/June 2026

President's Letter

By Micah Salb

What a Glorious Spring!

As is true every spring, our corner of the city is looking more beautiful with each passing day. Spring is my favorite season. I love watching the plants emerge, watching them show up here when last year they were there, watching them come in bigger and better than last year (and even watching them come in as their vitality wanes).

And you can enjoy the beauty of our neighborhood by attending the annual SPCA Garden Tour!

Chaired by the indefatigable Yvette Pearson and Mark Pattison, the tour this year promises to outshine every prior year! As in previous years, it is a self-guided tour, which allows you to visit each of the beautiful gardens and habitats throughout the communities of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, and North Portal Estates at your own pace. The Garden Tour will be on Sunday, May 17, from 2 till 5

pm (rain or shine!) (See the article below for more details). Make sure to include my home on your walk, because, as always, as long as it is sunny out I will be sharing my apiary (and some honey!) with my visitors.

You might also want to make sure your membership is up-to-date, because while Garden Tour tickets come with a fee, the Garden Tour is FREE for all current SPCA members and for all children under 12. An individual SPCA membership will get you one free garden tour ticket, and with a household membership you will get three free garden tour tickets, so join the SPCA now!<<https://www.memberplanet.com/Groups/GroupJoinLoginNew.aspx?ISPUB=true%26invitee=1f16266013qs>> Remember, members are the lifeblood of the SPCA; your support is essential.

Garden Tour Returns!

By Mark Pattison

Save the date of Sunday, May 17, for the Shepherd Park Garden Tour! The self-directed tour will take place that day—rain or shine—from 2:00 till 5:00 pm.

We love the bounteous and beautiful gardens throughout the neighborhood. In addition, this year we are also highlighting vegetable gardens. Inch by inch, row by row, Shepherd Park's vegetable gardeners deserve recognition, too.

We expect to have all the features you've come to expect from the Shepherd Park Garden Tour: a program booklet, SPCA T-shirts for sale, and more. Keep looking at the Shepherd Park listserv for latest details.

Everything's coming up roses!

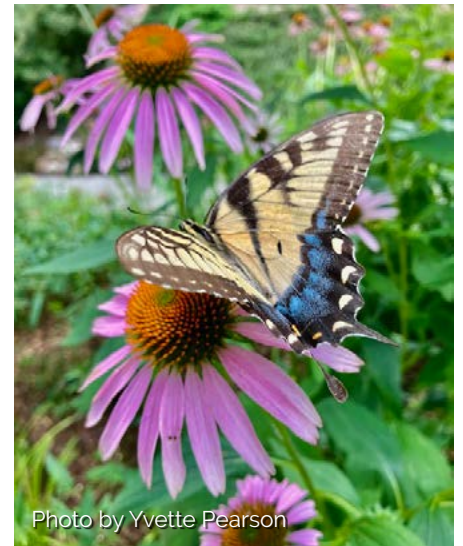


Photo by Yvette Pearson

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Membership Time

Any time is a great time to join or renew your membership with the Shepherd Park Citizens Association (SPCA), the long-standing civic organization serving Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, and the growing community at Walter Reed. Through late spring, summer, and into the fall, SPCA will be working to bring neighbors together for civic engagement, community building, friendship, and fun.

Whether you're new to the area or long-time residents, we invite you to join/renew your SPCA membership today. Just visit shepherdpark.org/join-contribute. Prompts will lead the way.



Photo by Dori Gillman

Tip-Top Tap

The Knock On Wood tap studio – one of a handful of tap-only dance studios in the country – gave a presentation March 8 on the history of tap at the Shepherd Park Library. Presenters Sam Heimowitz and Katharine Manor (pictured) recounted the origins of tap, showed rarely seen footage of tap greats from a century ago, and even got the audience to do a few basic tap steps.

Pictured are Sam Heimowitz and Katharine Manor.

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Corrections
 On p. 3: Goodies for the DC Fire Department Engine Company 22 and the Metropolitan Police Department Fourth District were prepared by Alieze Stallworth of Leola's Bakeshop. Photo for Engine 22 was by Paula Edwards.

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.

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SPCA in Action

SPCA Co-Sponsors Candidate Forum Series

By Cynthia Prather

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association again co-hosted three in-person DC candidate forums with the Chevy Chase Community Association to better prepare residents for the local elections on June 16. The forums, held April 7, 8, and 9, were an opportunity to hear from Democratic candidates for Mayor, for Delegate to the House of Representatives, and for At-Large Member of the DC Council.

Videos of the forums can be seen by using these links:

<https://igit.me/SPCA-Forum-Mayor> (Passcode is \$6oqcTaH)

<https://igit.me/SPCA-Forum-House> (Passcode is wA1\$SewY)

<https://igit.me/SPCA-Forum-Council> (Passcode is 8=8gVwtR)

This is the first ranked choice election to be held since the Ranked Choice Voting Initiative was approved in November 2024. All candidates certified by the Board of Elections in these three races were invited to participate.

The forums, which were held in the Frana Auditorium at St. John's College High School, 2607 Military Road NW, were available for view via zoom and recorded for those who could not attend. Closed captioning also was provided.

Led by volunteer moderators from both organizations, candidates responded to questions submitted by residents in advance of and during the forum. Issues raised included home rule/DC statehood, affordable housing, services for seniors and veterans, and health care.

Thanks to CCCA President Rasheen Carbin and member Jory Barone, SPCA President, Micah Salb, co-moderators Eddie Cordone and Robert Gordon, and all the volunteers who supported the effort.



The Wednesday night forum's participants included Greg Jackho, Trent Holbrook, Brooke Pinto, Kinney Zalesne, and Kelly Mikel Williams.

Yard Sale Coming In August

By Mark Pattison

It'll be Yard Sale-palooza in Shepherd Park and environs the weekend of August 29-30 (the weekend before Labor Day) as the Shepherd Park Yard Sale holds sway throughout the neighborhood. Yard sale hours are 9 am-3 pm both days. Sellers can choose to sell either or both days.

SPCA board member Shaila Cordone will once again helm this year's event. She can be reached at sguthko@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Keep an eye out on the Shepherd Park listserv for such details as registration fees and a common-sale site.

It's never too late to start your spring cleaning!

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ANC Updates

New Sidewalks/More Trees in Store for Spring

By Dorina Bekoe

ANC4A's March meeting reviewed some of the renovation projects coming to Shepherd Park sidewalks and streets over the next couple of months.

Sidewalk Gap Program in Shepherd Park

The Sidewalk Gap Program aims to fill in gaps in the city's sidewalks by adding new sidewalks where sidewalks do not exist. In Shepherd Park, the Sidewalk Gap Program will soon start reconstruction of four-foot wide sidewalks along 17th and Juniper Street, NW. Sidewalk trees will also be planted by D.C.'s Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Urban Forestry Division. Track existing and upcoming sidewalk work on the Sidewalk Gap Program website:

<https://sidewalkgap.ddot.dc.gov>

To request a crosswalk, complete a request online at <https://ddot.dc.gov/service/pavement-markings> or email Karyn McAlister at karyn.mcalister@dc.gov

DC PLUG Update

By Micah Salb

The DC Power Line Undergrounding initiative is a collaboration between the District and Pepco to move some of the city's power line feeders underground. The plan includes four feeders in Ward 4. Though none of the DC PLUG feeders are in the SPCA area, the project includes the Brightwood neighborhood bordered by Aspen Street. The work on that feeder will include rehabilitating all of Aspen Street NW from 16th Street to Georgia Avenue NW. The work will consist of improving pedestrian accessibility and safety; ensuring ADA compliance; and improving driving, parking, and storm water management. Streets will be expanded and trees will be replaced. The \$18.36 million project will take place in four phases and is scheduled to finish in Spring 2028. Residents will be informed of upcoming work with door knockers 72-hours in advance. Work will take place between 7 am and 7 pm, including some Saturdays. See HOME | DCPLUG for more information.



Photo by Cynthia Prather

DC International School

DC International School is proposing to make enhancements at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center. Councilmember Janeese Lewis George will lead the effort to include neighborhood input on this project.



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.



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Neighborhood News

East Rock Creek Village Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Mark Pattison

East Rock Creek Village, the aging-in-place senior village for residents ages 50 and up, celebrates 10 years in 2026. ERCV serves Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, Walter Reed, Takoma D.C., Brightwood, and Manor Park.

“One of the quiet strengths of the village is the simple act of showing up. Many members first come to a walk, a lunch, or a community event—not knowing anyone—and leave having made a new connection,” said Shelley Moskowitz, an ERCV member and volunteer. “Over time, those small moments grow into friendships, shared activities, and a sense of belonging.”

“Many of us came here later in life to be near family, but we needed community, too. East Rock Creek Village helped us find that,” said Jeanne Heid-Grubman, a relatively new member who started ERCV’s New to DC group.

ERCV’s annual Jazz on the Plaza free live concert will be held on Sunday, June 7 (rain date June 14) at The Parks at Walter Reed. Enjoy free live music, meet neighbors, and see what East Rock Creek Village is all about.

To learn more about programs, membership and volunteering, or to sign up for their *Village Voice* newsletter, visit eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322.



No Kings Day

Shepherd Park had its own site for the No Kings 3.0 rally on March 28. One hundred neighbors gathered with their signs at Caplan Park. Thanks to Rachel Seidel for organizing the event (as well as the No Kings 2.0 rally last October).



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Potluck Fun!



Photo by Ralph Blessing



Photo by Ralph Blessing



Photo by Ralph Blessing

Neighbors old and new converged on the Washington Ethical Society March 8 to revive the custom of a neighborhood potluck. They were serenaded by both a jazz-instrumental trio -- and by some candidates for political office! What's more, nobody left hungry! Our thanks to SPCA Board Member David Hain for organizing this year's event.

EARTH DAY Celebration

April 24 - May 30, 2026

Meet the Artists Receptions:

Fri, April 24, 4-8 pm & Sat, April 25, 2-6 pm
1429 Iris St. NW, Wash DC 20012

Featured Artists: Mentu Easwaran; Sofia Gawer; Margery Goldberg; Len Harris; Phil Hazard; Bernie Houston; Ronni Jolles; Carol Newmyer; Nancy Nesvet; Jed Smalley; Lynda Smith-Bugge; Bradley Stevens; Jennifer Wagner; Robert Weston, and more!



Moving Forward, by Margery Goldberg



Spring Path, by Bradley Stevens



Monkton Woods, by Jed Smalley

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2026 Local market context

A Strong Start for the Spring Market

January-March trends for single family homes in SP & CV

Number of Homes Sold: **8**

Average Sold Price: **\$1.227**

Average Price-per-SF: **\$520**

List-to-sale ratio: **97%**

What I'm seeing:

Buyers in our neighborhood and across the city are being more selective, but well-presented homes continue to attract strong interest and higher prices.

Kris Nelson

Neighbor & Real Estate Advisor

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Spotlight on Our Neighbors

As space permits, the SP News will include neighbor remembrances and well wishes.

SPCA Thank You's

SPCA bids a fond farewell to Liz Crafford and her husband, Tom who returned to Maine, after 12 years on Kalmia Road. Liz, one of the founding Weed Warriors, has spent countless hours organizing and leading clean-ups, plant ins, and nature walks to help improve the community.

After 41 years, Margie Odle and Carl Bergman have moved from their Geranium Street home. Carl was treasurer of the SPCA for several years, and also treasurer of the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library. Margie was one of the first of the Early Readers at Shepherd Elementary when the program started in 2008; she and several neighbors have done tax prep volunteer work at libraries in Southeast. Both will continue to be involved in East Rock Creek Village.

We are saddened to share news of the passing of long-time Holly Street neighbor Kathleen Hage at age 93, on March 7. Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kathleen (Katie) and her husband, Richard, moved to Washington, DC in 1967, where they became active members of the Blessed Sacrament parish. Known for her bright, soprano voice, Kathleen became a pioneering member of the parish's folk mass. Kathleen also served as Music Director for Sunday Mass at the Walter Reed Memorial Chapel for 20 years.

Bettie Graham: Champion Fencer, Scientist, and Volunteer

By Jonca Bull

The neighborhoods of the SPCA host more than our fair share of national and international leaders. But did you know that we also lead in world class fencing? Our featured neighbor this issue is Bettie Graham. Bettie is a dedicated volunteer mentor in the Shepherd elementary Early Readers Program, a scientist, and a world-class fencer, specializing in both épée and foil.

Bettie's life is a story of service and achievement. As one of the first to answer the federal call for Peace Corps, Bettie taught math and science in Nigeria for two years before launching a decades-long career at the National

Institutes of Health (NIH), first as a biomedical researcher and later as a scientist administrator. Bettie retired from NIH in December 2023 after 51+ years of service.

Bettie began her fencing career in her 50s after witnessing the tragic death of two young adults and realizing that dreams should not be deterred but rather given full attention in the here and now. She soon was involved in competitive fencing in the Veteran +60, +70, and +80 divisions. She also represented the United States at 12 Veteran World Championships, earning two Team Gold medal and an individual Bronze medals in Epee. Most recently, Bettie won the 2026 gold medal for Vet-80 Foil at the USA Fencing Tournament held this past February in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bettie's example shows us that discipline, passion, and service have no expiration date. "Retirement is not the end," she commented. "It's simply a starting point for new ways to grow and to serve."



Photo by Jonca Humphries

Neighbor Bettie Graham won the gold medal for Vet-80 Foil at the 2026 USA Fencing Tournament.

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News You Can Use

Change at PNC

By Cynthia Prather

Change is happening at the Shepherd Park PNC, and it is not just about dollars and cents.

Change in Leadership. While extending our appreciation to former manager, Eric Davis, SPCA extends a sincere welcome to Fernando Rivero, who became the branch manager on April 6. A native of Puerto Rico, Rivero has been a banking professional for over 20 years, with experience at Chase, Bank of America, and Truist, before joining PNC.

Return to Live Tellers. After two years, PNC has reinstated the teller line, where customers again have personal access to a full range of banking services. The lobby's video "service station" has been converted to a regular ATM machine, where customers can continue tellerless banking during banking hours in the privacy, comfort, and safety of PNC's indoor space.

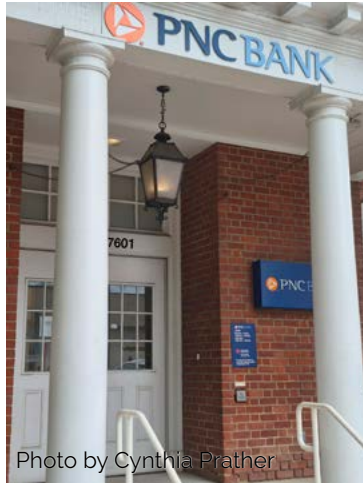


Photo by Cynthia Prather

Return to Saturday hours! In-person services are again available on Saturdays, with hours from 9 am – 1:00 pm.

Help with Change. With no new pennies coming from the US Mint, PNC is happy to take pennies and other coins as long as they are wrapped. Free wrappers are available at the bank to PNC account holders.

Rivero is happy to meet with past, current, and potential customers to introduce and/or explain the bank's current portfolio of personal and electronic banking services. "My goal is to help consumer and business clients achieve their financial goals."

The Scoop on Dog Poop!

Listserv readers have been asking about how to get DC Government signage that encourages neighbors to clean up after their dogs. Thanks to ANC 4a02 Commissioner, Joan Hoyte, who directed us to DC's Department of Energy and Environment. For pet waste facts, steps that pet owners should follow, the "who to call to report pet waste (311), and a full-color downloadable "Scoop Your Poop" poster, visit Pet Waste Complaints doec - DC.gov; <https://doec.dc.gov/page/petwaste>

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More News You Can Use

So Many Mail Solicitations! What to Do?!

Options from *Just That Simple*, your Takoma DC neighbor, www.just-that-simple.net

1. Contact the Direct Marketing Association DMACHoice.org.
2. End credit card and insurance offers with 5-year opt out at OptOutPrescreen.com.
3. Call each charity "Membership Dept"; ask to get off their mailing list AND not to be included in sales or exchanges lists. (Note: this is time consuming and slow; direct mail is scheduled long in advance.)

Meanwhile, open envelopes to:

- Retrieve and file thank you receipts with tax records.
- Remove enclosed "things" and labels; keep the few you need, trash the rest (can't be recycled).
- Recycle unwanted paper.

Strategy? Aim to manage mail daily, toss what isn't needed, gather action items (bills, calls, filing, ...) Reward yourself! With tea, walk, call a friend ...

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Development

Vicki Davis Transfers Leadership on Walter Reed Development

By Cynthia Prather

Vicki Davis, Managing Partner and Co-founder of Urban Atlantic, LLC and lead person on the Walter Reed Development Project since its inception in 2015, recently announced that she and other managing partners will be elevating a team of managing directors, entitled the Urban Atlantic C Suite (CEO, CFO, CIO, and DCO) to increased leadership and management responsibilities.

As explained by Davis, the partners and she, who started the company in 1997/98, will continue to be managing partners. The transition of leadership is moving Urban Atlantic towards achieving its overall wish "to be an evergreen company with merit-based promotion from within based on accomplishments and leadership, so that Urban Atlantic can flourish and grow well past the founders' horizons."

Expectations are high for the remainder of the project. "We expect about three more years of development for most of Walter Reed, and we have a long-term plan of operations for the site."

Davis also made it clear that the change doesn't mean that she will disappear. "I will be with Walter Reed for the duration," Davis commented. "We love this Parks at Walter Reed community and the great place it has created for our surrounding neighborhoods and the community."



Photo by Cynthia Prather

A constant at planning sessions and community events, Davis was SPCA's Business Supporter of the Year in 2023.

Business Beat

Happy Anniversary, Ledo Pizza!

By Beth Allaben

August will mark 20 years since Shepherd Park neighbors Kelly and Tim Shuy opened their Ledo Pizza and Pasta restaurant on Georgia Avenue. Although the menu changes two or three times a year, just like in 2006, this Ledo Pizza location still makes its pizza dough and sauce from scratch every day and slices the vegetables and grates the cheese in house.

A family operation, over the years Kelly's two brothers, Tim's two sons, and now his nephew have worked at the restaurant. Kelly still oversees operations while her brother Marty O'Rourke and Tim's nephew Zach Shuy take care of things day-to-day and the Shuys' 10-year-old granddaughter is looking forward to when she can start working there.

"The closing of Walter Reed has been our biggest challenge," recalled Kelly. "Each day, the Walter Reed workers were out front waiting for us to open and stopping by before we closed." During Covid the staff took a vote to remain open and soon developed a drive-through system with workers bringing the food out to the cars. Kelly says there were so many cars "it was like a concert" every night.

Pizza is the #1 neighborhood favorite, but well-done chicken wings are a close second. Catering is a big part of their business, too, and you can always count on seeing food donated by the restaurant at any neighborhood event. The hard work of the staff of 30 (including four who have worked there since the first year) has made the Shepherd Park restaurant a top 10 Ledo location since it opened. The dining room has even become a photo op stop in front of the pizza boxes that have been stacked up to spell "LEDO."

After 20 years, though, it's the staff and the neighbors who bring a smile to Kelly's face.

Ledo Pizza

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ledopizza.com/store/dc-georgia-ave/
M-Th 11-9, F-Sa 11-10, Su 12-9



Photo by Ryan Waddy

SP neighbors Kelly and Tim Shuy opened Ledo Pizza and Pasta on Georgia Avenue in 2006. Ledo Pizza staff from left to right: Zach Shuy, Eloy Menendez, Sheila Veney, Kelly Shuy, and Tim Shuy.



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Community Calendar, May-June 2026

Ongoing

First Tuesdays, 7 pm
ANC 4A Monthly Meeting
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3rd Thursdays, 7 pm
4d MPD Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)
 In Person or Via Zoom

Every Wednesday
Ward 4 Community Listening Sessions
 Ft Stevens Recreation Center,
 12-1 pm
 Hattie Holmes Senior
 Wellness Center,
 1:30-2:30 pm

Every Saturday, 11 am
Tot Shabbat
 TI's littlest members (up to 5 years old) are invited for a Shabbat morning gathering filled with song, prayer, and interactive activities inspired by the Torah portion of the week and Holidays.
 Tifereth Israel Congregation
 7701 16th St. NW
<https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/tot-shabbat15.html>

Every Saturday, 11 am
Mini Minyan
 TI's K-2nd graders are invited to a Shabbat morning gathering filled with song, prayer, and interactive activities inspired by the Torah portion of the week and Holidays.
 Tifereth Israel Congregation
 7701 16th St. NW
<https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/mini-minyan2.html>

Biweekly Sun, 2-6 pm
Hand Dancing with DJ Rick G
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW
ONGOING FITNESS: Check theparksdc.com/events for exact dates

Weekly Sat, 10-11 am
Qigong Classes: FREE
 The Parks at Walter Reed Great Lawn

1301 Main Drive NW
Low-key fitness in a restful setting

Weekly Sat, 10 am - 10:45 am
Zumba Classes with One Rule Dance (ticketed)
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW

Weekly, Thu 6-7 pm
Yoga at The Parks with Yoga Heights, \$10
 The Parks at Walter Reed Great Lawn
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Weekly, Sun 9-10 am
Yoga at The Parks with Yoga Heights, \$10
 The Parks at Walter Reed Great Lawn
 1301 Main Drive NW

Weekly, Sat, 8-9 am
Strength & Cardio with David, FREE
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW

May 2026

Wed, May 6, 2pm
Ranked choice voting seminar
 Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia

Fri May 15, 5:30-7:30 pm
Happy Hour at The Parks: Latin Tunes & Salsa Dancing, FREE
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW
Drinks to purchase or bring a picnic

Sun, May 17, 2-5pm
Shepherd Park Garden Tour

Meet at Shepherd Park Christian Church, 7900 Eastern Ave NW

Tue, 5/19, 6:30pm
Friends of the Library meeting, via Zoom
 To register, go to <https://saveourdclibrary.org/friends-meetings/>

Thu, May 21, 8:30 pm
Tikkun Leil Shavuot
 Co-sponsored with Fabrangen, Minyan Segulah, New Synagogue Project, Ohev Shalom, and Shirat HaNefesh
 It is traditional to symbolically prepare ourselves to receive the Torah by studying throughout the first night of Shavuot. TI observes this tradition each year in partnership with local congregations.
 Tifereth Israel Congregation
 7701 16th St. NW

Tue, May 26, 6:30pm
Talk by Hailu Getachew Tilahun, author of "The Chatter of Jupiter, Mercury and Pluto"
 Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia

Wed, May 27, 7-9 pm
Upper 16th St. Community Beit Midrash
 On Sukkot, Purim, Pesach, Shavuot, and Tisha b'Av, we read special megillot connected to the themes of the holiday. In this monthly class, taught by Rabbi Avi Strausberg, we'll dive into these megillot with the help of midrashim in preparation for their corresponding holidays. Whether you're new to these megillot or you want a change to dig deeper through midrash, everyone is welcome regardless of background.
<https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/upper-16th-st.-community-beit-midrash.html>

Sun May 31, 11 am - 4 pm
The Parks Flea Market
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW
Vintage, vinyl, vendors, & fun

Jun 2026

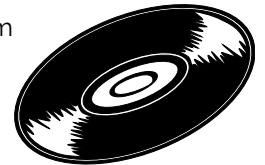
Sun Jun 7, 4-6 pm
East Rock Creek Village Presents a Jazz Concert, FREE
 The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW
Local jazz outdoors

Fri, Jun 12, 6:30 pm
Rising Song Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner
 "Circle up" in song to propel yourself into a soul-filling Shabbat
 Tifereth Israel Congregation
 7701 16th St. NW
<https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/rising-song-kabbalat-shabbat.html#>

Sat Jun 20, 11 am - 8 pm
Home Rule Music Festival Returns, FREE

The Parks at Walter Reed Great Lawn
 1301 Main Drive NW
Amazing local music, vinyl, fun, community, vendors, food

Sun Jun 28, 11 am - 4 pm
The Parks Flea Market The Parks at Walter Reed Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW
Vintage, vinyl, vendors, & fun



Save the Date

Sat-Sun, Aug 29-30
 9am-3pm both days
Shepherd Park Yard Sale

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