



DC General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2026! See p. 12 for more information.

Shepherd Park News

Vol. 26, Issue 3

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

Oct/Nov 2026

President's Letter

By Micah Salb

Fall's arrival marks the return to real life in Washington—the routine of the academic calendar, the return of aggravating traffic, the cool fall weather bringing renewal to our gardens, and a host of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association's fall events.

Big thanks to Shaila Cordone, the member of the SPCA Board who took the lead on coordinating the SPCA Yard Sale. The sale was held on September 19 and 20 and was a

fun way to find bargains and to unclutter your home. I hope you had a chance to participate. If you missed it, make sure to sign up for our local listserv where you can get reminders of events like this!

And please watch the listserv for the announcement of the SPCA's Annual Meeting, which will be held this fall. If you are not a member of the Shepherd Park Email Group, send a blank email to: shepherdpark+subscribe@groups.io.



Photos by Cynthia Prather



You never know who — or what — you'll find at the Shepherd Park Halloween Parade: Revolutionary War soldiers, princess, neighbors, friends, and more!

Halloween Doings in Shepherd Park

By Mark Pattison

For many of our neighborhood kids, Halloween is “the most wonderful time of the year.” And grownups can unleash their inner child, too!

The SPCA will conduct its annual house and pumpkin decorating contest in October, with judging taking place Thursday, Oct. 29. If you're decorating your house and don't mind being judged, email SPCA VP Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@outlook.com. If you want to do the judging, email Mark so that there's a full judging crew.

The pinnacle of Halloween fun is the annual Halloween Parade at Shepherd Field. Halloween, Oct. 31, falls on a Saturday this year. We'll start our parade at 6:10 pm, just a couple of minutes past sunset in the District. It'll be spooky fun for all before the dash to collect Halloween treats door to door. The parade IS the social event of the season. Come early if you can!

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Membership Time

Anytime 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. Throughout the year, SPCA works 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.

Georgia Ave 7-Eleven Closes

By Cynthia Prather

On August 24, a dismantling team and empty shelves met customers at the 7-Eleven at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Geranium Steet, which closed after many years of service. "Business decisions" was offered as the reason by one of the work team members. Many listserv and walk-in neighbors were taken by surprise. I am truly disappointed," commented one neighbor who has been buying gas there for decades. Fortunately, the loss was short-lived. A new mini-mart opened in the space on Sept 18.

New PO Number

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association has changed its Post Office Box number! The new PO Box number is 55257.

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"Art All Night" – and Daytime, Too!

By Cynthia Prather

It was food and fun on September 12 at the Georgia and Kalmia mini-mall, where the Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street (UGAMS) sponsored one of several events for this year's citywide Art All Night celebration. The DC Activist Street Band, a local New Orleans-style ensemble, provided the music. Flavas of the Culture served up grilled hot dogs, salmon, and sides. This year's UGAMS Art All Night line-up also included a mural painting on Missouri Avenue Market and live music at the Parks at Walter Reed. For more information about UGAMS programs and activities, contact Program Manager Sydney Felder, sydney@ugams.org.

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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!

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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

The Season of Giving: Grocery Gift Card and Coat Drive Benefit DC's Formerly Homeless

By Mark Pattison

For the 12th year, the SPCA will work with Hope and a Home on a children's winter coat drive and a grocery gift card drive for their parents. Hope and a Home works with formerly homeless families and transitions them into sustainable apartment living. It helps dozens of families every year.

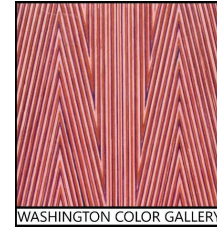
As the *Shepherd Park News* went to press, there was no estimate of the number of coats needed, or their sizes. Coats will be collected in October and can be dropped off at Rex Cleaners, 7346 Georgia. Rex is open 8-5:30 Mondays-Thursdays, 8-5 Fridays, and 8:30-5 Saturdays.

In November, we'll start the grocery gift card drive (Giant and Safeway are preferred). We ask for \$30 per household member. (At this writing, we can't predict how many families there will be, much less their size.) Grocery gift cards can be dropped off at Morris Miller Wine and Liquors, 7804 Alaska. Morris Miller is open 10-9 Mondays-Thursdays, 10-10 Fridays-Saturdays, and 11-8 Sundays.

Consult the Shepherd Park listserv on how you can contribute.

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ANC Updates

September ANC4A Meeting Roundup: A New Restaurant, More Housing, and DCPS News

Compiled by Dorina Bekoe

Wingstop

A new Wingstop is planned for 7800 Alaska Avenue, NW. The property owners are seeking an exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) at a hearing scheduled for October 21. Concerns were raised at the ANC meeting about Wingstop's proposed closing time of 3 am. Some cautioned that such a late closure may disrupt the neighborhood; others worried about possible security issues.



Photo by Cynthia Prather

Property owners are proposing a Wingstop at 7800 Georgia Ave.

The Concord Redevelopment

Located at 13th Street and Missouri Avenue, NW, the project involves rehabilitating all the buildings on the property. It will add 10 new homes to the existing 70, for a total of 80 units. The units will consist of one- and two-bedroom apartments. The project will add 34 parking spaces and 7 bike racks; currently neither exist. A hearing at the BZA was scheduled for September 30, 2026.

Truancy in Ward 4 High Schools and Safety in Schools

At Roosevelt and Coolidge High Schools, 66% of students were considered chronically truant (10 or more unexcused absences), according to the 2024-2025 DCPS Attendance Report. There is a federal special grand jury looking into chronic absenteeism and graduation rates in DCPS.

In August 2026, DCPS launched the DC Schools Safety Office. For the first time, public, charter, private, and parochial schools will have a one-stop shop for information on behavioral health services, safety procedures and assessments, and coordination among public safety agencies.

Update from Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Lewis George co-introduced the Rodent Education and Management Yields Results (REMY) Amendment Act of 2026, which focuses on providing rodent-resistant dumpsters in commercial corridors to reduce food sources for rodents. Residents can report rodents by calling 311.

Constituent office hours and locations: Wednesday afternoons at Fort Stevens Rec Center from 12-1 pm; Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center from 1:30-2:30 pm.



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Neighborhood News

Friends of Juanita Thornton-Shepherd Park Library: Books, History, and Baseball!

By Mark Pattison

The Friends of the Library will hold a used-book sale the weekend of Oct. 31-Nov. 1 inside the library, 7420 Georgia. Hours will be 10 am-4 pm on Saturday, and 1-4 pm on Sunday. Kids coming by will get a small Halloween treat, and any grownups buying something will get a treat as well. Grownup books are \$1, and books for kids are 50 cents. The Friends will also sell their "I (heart) JET" T-shirts, the initials honoring the library's namesake, Juanita E. Thornton.

The Aug. 29-30 used book sale collected \$1,100. Let's top that on Halloween!

The annual Public Meeting of the Friends takes place Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 6:30 pm at the library. Guest speaker is Sarah Jane Shoenfeld, editor of *Washington History* magazine, who will talk on "The Tortured History of Home Rule in DC".

The Friends will kick off a weekly baseball film series starting Nov 8, after the World Series is over. Movies will screen Sundays at 2 pm. All films are free, and post-movie discussion and noshing at Ledo Pizza across the street from the library will be encouraged.

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School News

Shepherd Elementary Welcomes Interim Principal

By Mark Pattison

Dr. Calvin Hooks is the new interim principal at Shepherd Elementary. He started June 28. He hit the ground running, holding family engagement sessions in June, July, and August.

Hooks' primary goals are to "provide steady leadership, ensure continuity for students and staff, and support the school community as we prepare for the future arrival of permanent leadership," he told parents upon being appointed in June.

He also plans to "dedicate time to learning about the rich history, traditions, strengths, and aspirations that make Shepherd Elementary School such a special place."

By working together and building on existing strengths, he added, "we can continue creating an environment where every child is known, challenged, supported, and empowered to succeed."

Hooks has spent 24 years in DC Public Schools, the last eight as principal of Hyde-Addison Elementary in Georgetown, where he was named DCPS principal of the year for 2023-24.

He is the first man to be principal at Shepherd since Daniel Robinson, who instituted its highly successful International Baccalaureate program and retired at the 2007 winter break.

As interim principal, Hooks' scheduled stay is for one year. However, the last such "interim" principal, Dr. Phyllis Hedlund, led Shepherd for four years.

Can't spot the new principal? Look for the man in the bow tie!



Photo from D.C. Public Schools



Interim Principal Hooks, parents, and local police welcome students back to Shepherd. (Above and below photos by Cynthia Prather.)



(Above and right) The DC International School offers advanced language instruction and an emphasis on community service.

Other School Openings

Streets and hallways were packed as the District of Columbia International School, the public charter school at 1400 Main Drive (in the Parks at Walter Reed) for students in grades 6-12. This International Baccalaureate world school features full language immersion tracks in Spanish, French, and Chinese and places a heavy emphasis on community service.



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Around the Community

Community Voices Concerns with MPD 4D

By Cynthia Prather

On August 19, business owners, representatives for elected officials, ANC commissioners, and concerned neighbors joined ANC4A Chair Paula Edwards and a team of officers from MPD 4D for a Community Walk-turned-Talk about issues on the upper Georgia Avenue corridor.

Business owners shared concerns about shoplifting and loitering. Residents were apprehensive about Metro safety for student bus riders, theft from autos, and speeding along upper 16th Street. Still others wanted information about a shooting in the 7400 block of Georgia Avenue during the previous week.

Newly appointed 4th District officer, Captain Jessica A. Hawkins, introduced 4D team members, who together listened to concerns, explained some of the challenges, outlined some strategies for addressing the various concerns, and shared ideas on what business owners and residents can do to help. Attendees seemed encouraged that they had been heard and that new steps would be taken.

Thanks to Commissioner Edwards for organizing the event and to Kelly and Tim Shuy of Ledo Pizza (7435 Georgia Ave NW) for providing the venue.



Photo provided by Ledo Pizza

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Floral Street Block Party Keeps Growing!

Floral Street neighbors gathered en masse at their annual block party, which dates back to at least 1970. The group photo was taken outside the home of Anna Hairston, who with her late husband, Joe, bought the house in 1962, a purchase that desegregated Shepherd Park. (right and below)



Photo courtesy of Mical Owens

News You Can Use

New Faces at MPD 4D

By Cynthia Prather

The 4th District of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has several new faces on the team this year.

David Hong, Commander

David Hong, a 19-year veteran of MPD, has served in various capacities in MPD's 1st, 5th, and 6thw Districts, the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force, and the MPD's Special Liaison Branch (SLB), a model program for community policing in historically underserved communities. He was honored as Captain of the Year for 2021. In 2022, he was promoted to inspector of the Metropolitan Police Academy, and he was elevated to commander in 2023. Hong was named 4th District Commander this past May. Email: david.hong@dc.gov; Phone: (202) 715-7500.



Photo from <https://mpdc.dc.gov/website>

Captain Jessica Hawkins

Captain Hawkins, who began work over the summer, is responsible for Sector 3, which includes Public Service Area (PSA) 401 (the PSA that covers Shepherd Park). Email: Jessica.hawkins@dc.gov; Phone: (202) 715-7400.

Ashley M. Varvounis, Inspector

An MPD officer since 2008, Inspector Varvounis was first assigned to the 4th District in 2022, where she worked with the Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative. After serving two years with the Background Investigations Branch, Varvounis returned to 4D this past January as Inspector. Email: Ashley.varvounis@dc.govPSA401

Contact Information

PSA 401 Main Office Phone: 202-715-7473

Fourth District Main Desk 202-715-7400

Emergency Line: 911

Non-Emergency Line: 311

4D Citizens Advisory Council Meetings: 3rd Thursday of every month (except July and August), 7 pm, 4D Community Room

PSA 401 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of Jan, Apr, July, and Oct, 7pm, Shepherd Park Library

Walter Reed Updates

Compiled by Beth Allaben

Cantina Paraiso (facing Marketplace Plaza) – Mexican restaurant (replacing Jinya) opened in May 2026, 1155 Dahlia St NW, Tu-Th 5-10 pm, F/Sa 11:30 am-2 pm; 5-11 pm, Su 1-8:30 pm.

Continued on the next page

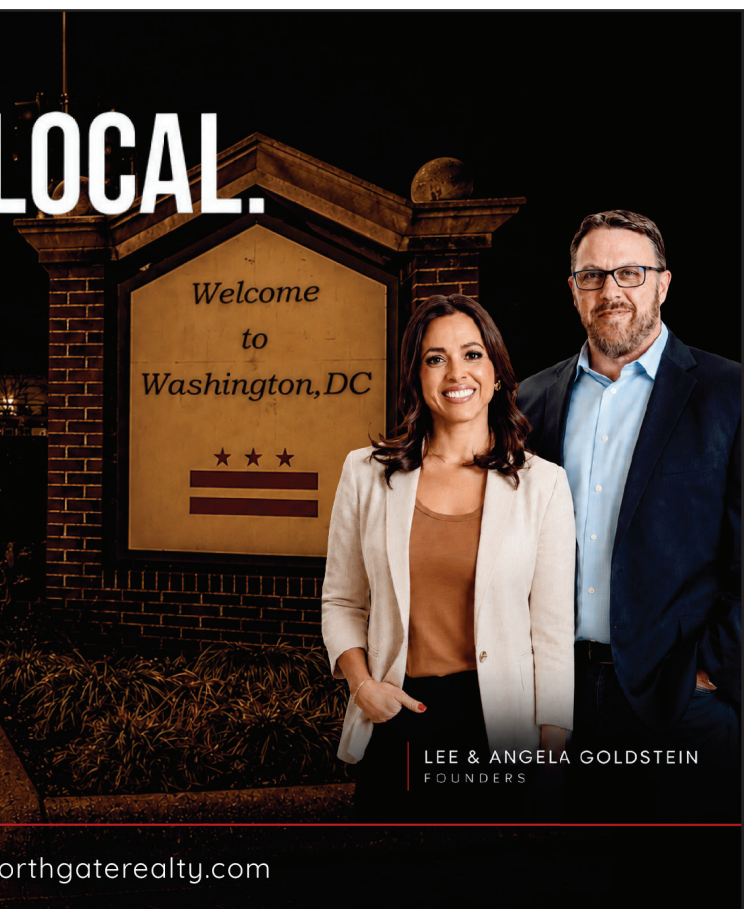
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Walter Reed Updates *(con't from page 8)*

Slice & Pie (facing Dahlia St NW) – Classic neighborhood pizzeria, with carryout pizza and a few tables, is now open! 1155 Dahlia St NW, Mon-Thu 3-9 pm; Fri-Sun 12-9 pm.

Wonder (facing Marketplace Plaza) – Food hall under construction, with limited seating area and carry out/delivery. 1155 Dahlia St NW. Hours TBD. Zoning exception to operate a fast food establishment approved in June 2026.

Hazel's True Value Hardware Store – Work continues with an anticipated opening in late fall. 1011 Main Dr NW.

Canopy Row (Parcels A-G) – 47 townhomes along Fern St NW and 96 condos along Georgia Ave and Elder St NW. Groundbreaking ceremony June 6. Sales to begin early 2027.

Parcel HK (behind Whole Foods) – 62 townhomes near Dahlia and 13th Sts NW. Construction just started.

Rock Creek View (Parcel Z) – 37 townhomes at 16th and Aspen Sts NW. Some units have been completed and are ready for immediate move in, and a model is open. Work continues on additional homes.

The Clover (facing Marketplace Plaza) – Co-living space with 60 units/248 bedrooms. 95 bedrooms leased to Howard University for student housing started in 2025, with free shuttle bus to main campus.

Development

Local Arts Venue Breaks Ground on Alaska Ave

By Beth Allaben

After securing funding and permits, in June Rhizome DC started construction for its new home at 7733 Alaska Ave – the old doctor's office next to Champions. Rhizome DC, an arts nonprofit currently located at 6950 Maple St NW in Takoma DC, purchased the building in 2024. Rhizome hopes to open by the end of the year and will host working space for artists, exhibitions, and community events. You can learn more about Rhizome at www.rhizomedc.org



Image courtesy of Rhizome DC

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2026 Local market context



A Strong 2026: Home Sales

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

Number of Homes Sold: **27**

Average Sold Price: **\$1,308,958**

Median Days On Market: **17**

List-to-sale price ratio: **114%**

Even with higher interest rates, well-priced and presented homes continue to attract strong interest and higher prices. Scan the QR code for a full list of neighborhood sales.

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Business Beat

Crafts and Games on Georgia Ave

Article and photos by Beth Allaben

Saturday, August 22 was a big day at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Geranium Street with the much anticipated and much delayed patio launch party for Merry Pin and the grand opening of Rowhaven Games next door.

Merry Pin¹ has transformed what began as a 330-square foot eyesore and tripping hazard due to uneven concrete into a beautiful, vibrant gathering space for the neighborhood. The corner now includes a green fence with planters, a gate to keep little ones from wandering into the street, umbrellas for summer and heaters for cold days, and removable tables so the space can be used for artisan markets, live music, and more.

The concrete patio area is part of the District's right of way, but the construction work had to be done at Merry Pin's expense. After 26 months of planning and an expense exceeding \$60,000 (with \$25,000 raised from friends and neighbors), a large crowd was on hand to celebrate the new space.

On the same day and right next door at 7348 Georgia Avenue, Rowhaven Games held a grand opening. Rowhaven Games is a new tabletop board game and pop culture shop in Shepherd Park. They specialize in board games, puzzles,

card games, trading card games, books, and more! With dedicated gaming areas upstairs, they bring a new space where people can gather around games to connect, play thoughtfully, and belong.

Merry Pin DC

7350 Georgia Ave NW
(202) 204-1552
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hello@merrypindc.com
Tu-Sa 8 am – 9 pm; Su 10 am – 9 pm
Closed Mondays



Customers gather on Merry Pin's new patio.

Rowhaven Games

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www.rowhaven.com
games@rowhaven.com
Tu-W 11 am – 8 pm, Th-Sa 11 am – 9 pm, Su 11 am – 8 pm
Closed Mondays



Rowhaven co-owner Dan Turner at the store's grand opening.

¹ Merry Pin is an independent craft store, café, coffee shop, bar, and community space.

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East Rock Creek Village brings older adults together for:

- walks
- museum outings
- conversation
- lunches
- exercise
- matinee movies
- happy hour
- art & music
- and more!

There's always something happening!



Give us a try. Non-members are welcome to participate!

See what's happening this month:



Community Calendar, October-November 2026

Ongoing

First Tuesdays, 7 pm
ANC 4A Monthly Meeting
 Visit Anc4A.org for details

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.
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[https://www.tifereth-israel.org/
 event/tot-shabbat15.html](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](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
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Weekly Sat, 10-11 am
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The Parks at Walter Reed
 Marketplace Plaza
 7150 12th Street NW

Weekly, Thu 6-7
 pm

**Yoga at The
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 Heights, \$10**

The Parks at
 Walter Reed
 Great Lawn
 1301 Main
 Drive NW



Weekly, Sun 9-10 am
**Yoga at The Parks with Yoga
 Heights, \$10**

The Parks at Walter Reed
 Great Lawn
 1301 Main Drive NW

Now Through Oct 31
Children's Winter Coat Drive
 Drop off coats at Rex
 Cleaners
 7346 Georgia Ave NW

Ongoing in November
**Grocery gift card drive for
 formerly homeless families**
 Drop-off point is Morris Miller
 Wine and Liquors
 7804 Alaska

Sundays, Nov 8, 15, 22,
 Dec 6, 13, 20, 2pm
Baseball film series
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave,
*Free. Post-movie discussion at
 Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia.*

October

Sun Oct 4, 1 pm
**Readings from banned and
 challenged books.**
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW

Sun Oct 11, 2-6 pm
Hand Dancing with DJ Rick G
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 hand-dancing-rick-g/](https://theparksdc.com/event/hand-dancing-rick-g/)

Fri Oct 16, 5:30-7:30 pm
**Happy Hour at The Parks:
 Line Dancing**
 The Parks at Walter Reed

7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 happy-hour/](https://theparksdc.com/event/happy-hour/)

Sat Oct 17, 6 pm
Annual WES Auction
 Washington Ethical Society
 7750 16th Street NW
*Join us at our annual fundraiser
 - there will be amazing food and
 drinks, plus a highly entertaining
 auction with great items from
 the local community*

Sun Oct 25, 2-4 pm
**Washington Walks History
 Tour**
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 the-parks-history-walking-tour-
 walkingtowndc/](https://theparksdc.com/event/the-parks-history-walking-tour-walkingtowndc/)

Sun Oct 25, 11am-4 pm
The Parks Flea Market
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 the-parks-flea-market/](https://theparksdc.com/event/the-parks-flea-market/)

Sat Oct 31, 10 am-4 pm
Used Book Sale
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia Ave NW

Sat Oct 31,
 6:10pm
**Annual
 Halloween
 Parade**
 Shepherd
 Field
 Jonquil
 and Kalmia
 Between
 14th and 16th



November

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

Wed Nov 4, 6:30 pm
Annual Public Meeting
 Friends of the Library annual
 public meeting
 Shepherd Park Library
 7420 Georgia.
*With guest speaker Sarah Jane
 Shoenfeld, editor, Washington
 History magazine.*

Sun Nov 15, 2-4 pm
**Washington Walks History
 Tour**
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 the-parks-history-walking-tour-
 walkingtowndc/](https://theparksdc.com/event/the-parks-history-walking-tour-walkingtowndc/)

Sat Nov 21, 12-5pm
**Holiday Celebration &
 Market**
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 fall-festival-holiday-market/](https://theparksdc.com/event/fall-festival-holiday-market/)

Sun Nov 22, 10 am
Stone Soup Celebration
 Washington Ethical Society
 7750 16th Street NW

Sun Nov 29, 11am-4pm
The Parks Flea Market
 The Parks at Walter Reed
 7175 12th Street NW
[https://theparksdc.com/event/
 the-parks-flea-market/](https://theparksdc.com/event/the-parks-flea-market/)

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DC General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Registration Deadlines:

Online registration - October 13, 2026

By mail - Received by October 13, 2026

In person - Tuesday, November 3, 2026

For information about voting registration, eligibility requirements, early voting, election day in-person voting dates and hours, absentee voting, and more, visit <https://www.vote411.org/district-of-columbia>

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Join Our Upcoming Workshop to Build Your
Family Legacy Blueprint!

Saturday, November 14th, 2026 @ 10am

Shiloh Baptist Church
1500 9th St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Scan QR Code for Details and Registration



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