



Shepherd Park News

A quarterly newsletter for the residents of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates

2008 Vol., Issue 1

www.shepherdpark.org

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, February 26, 7-9 pm
SPCA COMMUNITY MEETING
at Shepherd Elementary School

SPCA Needs You!!

■ By Charisse Brossard.

It is a new calendar year and I hope you are going to keep that New Year's resolution and join the Shepherd Park Citizens Association this year. I know we get busy and put our mail aside, but please take a minute and complete the membership envelope sent to you last month. If you misplaced that envelope, clip out the membership form on page 5 and mail it in today.

Here are the facts: we have over 1500 households in Shepherd Park and over 1000 community residents

on the listserv and we need your support. Your contributions are vital to the sustenance of our community outreach programs such as the Annual Picnic, Yard Sale, Garden Tour, Halloween Parade, Potluck Dinner and community meetings designed for neighbors to learn more about issues affecting our community. Your dues also support the SPCA newsletter and are used to support our school and community beautification efforts.

SPCA membership has grown from 200 in 2003 to an all time high

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Do You Recognize these Shepherd Park Homes?

■ By Beth Allaben.



Just like now, builders in 1929 spent a lot of money marketing their homes. A few years ago, a neighbor donated a book of Shepherd Park model homes to the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Branch Library. Head Librarian Winnell Montague has given the *Shepherd Park News* a copy.

Can you identify these homes? We plan to scan the whole document (with many more photos) for our website sometime soon. We also plan to hold a Shepherd Park History Day. We are looking for long-

time residents to participate in the event or to provide oral histories of our community. If you're interested in the project or can provide the names of some longtime residents, contact Beth Allaben at beth.dc@verizon.net or 882-2609.



Meet the President

■ Article and photo by Maggie Häusler.

To many of you, Beth Allaben's election to SPCA President last June probably seemed like a perfectly natural consequence of her long history as a community activist.



After 19 years as an attorney for USDA, she decided to make more time for her family soon after her two children Ben and Anne (now 13 and 12 years old) were born. Around the same time she started a true grassroots movement in community outreach, trying to bring families with young children together. In an interview with the *Shepherd Park News* she described how she "walked the streets of Shepherd Park with her children in a double stroller, dropping off flyers at houses where it looked like children lived. We had about 30 people at the first gathering. This led to the formation of a small email group which ultimately became the Shepherd Park email group."

The popular Shepherd Park listserv is only one of Beth's many initiatives. As a long time member of SPCA, she became involved in reinvigorating the group together with Joan Hoyte and some other neighbors in the Fall of 2002. At that time, she also became co-editor of the *Shepherd Park News*. "Co-editor" is a modest understatement on her part, since she continues to be the driving force be-

hind the newsletter.

The main focus of her work as SPCA President is to build relationships within the community while at the same time reaching out to local businesses and organizations such as schools, churches and synagogues. As a major step towards more active involvement of community members, this year's SPCA Board has established a Traffic Committee that has been joined by 15 volunteers from the neighborhood. Other committees with a focus on economic development and on public spaces will follow. According to Beth, forming committees not only engages more neighbors supporting our community, but also extends the reach of SPCA beyond what can be done by the SPCA board members alone.

Beth and her husband Matt Chambers have lived on Jonquil Street since 1989.

(Continued from page 1)

of 440 in 2006. After a slight dip last year, we know we can do better. Even at the highest level, fewer than 30 percent of all neighborhood households have been SPCA members in any year. These figures do not reflect the activism and community spirit of the Shepherd Park community. Shepherd Park is truly a neighborhood like no other in DC and we welcome one and all to join the SPCA. Many thanks to the 125 neighbors who have already paid their 2008 dues. We need the rest of you to join SPCA and make our neighborhood all that it can be!

SPCA Board of Directors

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882-2609 beth.dc@verizon.net

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360-3334 dwayne.toliver@verizon.net

Joan Hoyte, Vice President

882-2447 jeph@aol.com

Enjoli Timmons, Secretary

286-7731 enjolitimmons@hotmail.com

Charisse Brossard, Treasurer

722-0525 Charisse_Brossard@adp.com

Gloria Owens, At Large Delegate

829-6886 gloowens@comcast.net

Cynthia Prather, At Large Delegate

882-7419 SCSPrath@aol.com

Delegates to the Federation of Civic Associations:

Noreen Conway

722-6263

noreenandbob@starpower.net

Emanuel Finn

882-7231 finn59@aol.com

emanuel.finn@dc.gov

Delegates to the Federation of Citizens Associations:

Angela Martin

723-0323 Angela.Martin@USPTO.gov

Christine Martin

723-0976 Christine@dcmartins.com

Rosalyn Wilcots

829-6860 RWIL730@aol.com

Immediate Past President:

Baruti Jahi

904-7307 BJahi@aol.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!

Beth Allaben

beth.dc@verizon.net 882-2609

Maggie Häusler (Layout)

maggie_hausler@hotmail.com

722-1880

Sekou Biddle

sekou.biddle@corps1993.tfanet.org

726-2872

Calendar of SPCA Events



- **SPCA Community Meeting:**
Tues, Feb 26, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **SPCA Community Meeting:**
Tues, Apr 14, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Garden Tour:** Sun, May 18
- **Yard Sale:** Sat, May 31 and Sun, June 1
- **Picnic:** Sun, June 22, 2-6 pm, Lowell field

Official Talk: This Month with DPW

■ By Linda Wharton-Boyd, Ph.D. and Sekou Biddle.

This is the first in a series of interviews with DC government officials about neighborhood concerns.

Shepherd Park is the home of many city officials, including and William O. Howland (Bill), Director of the DC Department of Public Works. Avid home gardeners and DC residents for 20 years, Bill and his wife, Theresa Howland, moved to Shepherd Park in 1999.



Photo: Courtesy of DPW

Bill grew up in Bethesda and met Theresa, a Mississippi native, at Carnegie Mellon University, where Bill received his master's in Public Policy and Management. Bill loves playing softball in his spare time.

Q: Why do we continue to have problem with recycling pickup? SP has a couple of blocks

with substitute drivers. DPW is working with these drivers to improve performance. DPW doesn't get many calls about recycling problems, but when we do, we send the drivers back out right away!

Q: Are there any plans for increasing the size of the recycling bins? DPW has been looking at this issue. In the meantime, citizens may request a second recycling can at no charge. Additional Supercans (for trash) are \$62.50.

Q: Can we expect more consistent alley cleaning/alley sweeping? DPW tries to get to each alley twice a year, but we clean alleys in the worst conditions first and concentrate on problems areas with illegal dumping; the "Helping Hand program" allows neighbors to assist in the effort.

Q: 16th Street, 14th Street and Georgia Avenue are high traffic streets. Can these streets get more attention for litter? DPW sends street sweepers down Georgia on Wednesday or Thursday each week. Shop owners are responsible for keeping the sidewalks clean in front of their establishments and 18 inches in the street. We will look into increasing street sweeping on 16th Street in the evening and 14th Street during the day.

Q: How has parking enforcement changed with the issuance of visitor parking passes? DPW needs to pay more attention to vehicles with the new visitor parking passes, which are tied to ANC areas. SP's biggest parking problem, however, is commuters who park in the neighborhood to use public transportation to get downtown. DPW will need to concentrate on that type of enforcement.

Q: How can residents report problems and receive information about DPW services? You can report problems and get information by calling the new 311. You can also get information at www.dpw.dc.gov. DPW makes quarterly mailings to all residents and will send staffers to community meetings to provide information.

Annual Spring Drop Off Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics

Saturday, April 25, 9 am–3 pm at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre Parking Lot at 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW. Concerned about security of data and personal information on your old PCs? DPW has been given assurances from the contractor that all hard drives will be wiped clean!

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A Little Work Now, Enjoy More Later

■ By Kathy Jentz.

This is the time of year we are just itching to get out and garden. Who wants to be stuck inside??!! And for those of you thinking about this year's garden tour, it pays to get a head start now.

Just as a few minutes of quick picking-up indoors makes a room feel instantly better, ten minutes or so of garden clean up every night this upcoming week will make a big difference. The key is to break your garden tasks down into several small items that can be done right before or after work. This will leave your weekend free to enjoy your hard work or to tackle a few big projects like adding a water garden, creating bed border edging, terraces, or paths.

■ **Pick Up.** Start by grabbing any fallen sticks, twigs, and limbs. Bundle them up for kindling or for recycling pick-up. Get a trash bag and toss in any garbage blown onto your lawn as well.

■ **Cut back.** Trim the flower stalks and foliage on perennials to near the base and recycle the cuttings in your compost pile.

■ **Weed.** Although this not the most fun chore, if broken down into 15-

minute segments it is a bit more manageable. If an area is totally out of control, consider using an herbicide such as *Round-Up*. Be careful to read the instructions fully and do not apply any to your garden plants.



Before and after. Photos: Beth Allaben

■ **Prune.** Check for disease and insect damage on your shrubs and trees. Prune out any blackened limbs.

■ **Relax.** Take some time to "smell the roses" and observe your hard work. Start a garden journal and note what worked and what didn't this past year. Start dreaming big for this year.

Kathy Jentz is editor of Washington Gardener magazine and is a long-time DC-area gardening enthusiast. Washington Gardener is all about gardening where you live. She can be reached at www.washingtongardener.com and welcomes your gardening questions.

Spring is in the Air...

OK, it may not be Spring quite yet, but it's never too early to start cleaning out your closets for the next **Shepherd Park Community Yard Sale on May 31 and June 1!** Neighbors set up shop at their own homes, in a cluster of homes, or at Shepherd Elementary School. Each location pays a \$10 fee (\$5 for Shepherd School); SPCA takes care of the rest of the cost. SPCA members save \$5 on registration. Look for sign-up details in the next *Shepherd Park*

News. If you'd like to help, contact **Charisse Brossard** (722-0525, charisse_brossard@adp.com) or **Christine Martin** (723-0976, christine@dcmartins.com).

And while you're at it, mark your calendar for the **4th annual SPCA Garden Tour on Sunday, May 18.** Contact **Gloria Owens** (829-6886, gloowens@comcast.net) if you'd like to suggest a garden or help plan this year's tour.

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Share Your Fitness Tips!

We've already had a taste spring-like weather – it is not too early to start getting ready for the real thing! In the next issue of the *Shepherd Park News*, we'll feature fitness information for all ages. Kenneth Clarke, Colonial Village neighbor and owner of *Fitness Together*, is working with SPCA Board Member Roz Wilcots to collect fitness tips from our neighbors. Do you have a favorite exercise routine, walking or running route, a hiking group or nearby fitness class? Let Ken (kacclarke@starpower.net) or Roz (RWIL730@aol.com, 829-6860) know by March 15 and watch for their article in the next newsletter.

Visitor Parking Passes

Visitor parking passes were mailed in December to all Ward 4 neighbors who live on streets with residential parking restrictions. This is part of the Ward 4 Visitor Parking Pass Pilot Program. These passes are to be used for visitors, workers, babysitters, etc. in lieu of the visitor passes formerly obtained through the Metropolitan Police Department. They don't take the place of the residential parking permit

stickers for vehicles you own. Unlike the residential parking permits, which are valid throughout Ward 4, the new visitor parking permits are only valid in your ANC (e.g. ANC 4A). The ANC zone is indicated on the residential parking permit signs on your block. If you did not receive a visitor parking pass in the mail and you live on a block with restricted residential parking, call DDOT at 671-2333.

Tree Planting

The Northern Corner-North Portal Estates Tree Planting, funded by the Casey Trees Foundation, will take place 8:30 am–12 pm, Saturday, March 29. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Clif Grandy at 291-1152.

2008 SPCA Membership Application

Name: _____ *Please list all adult household members*

Address: _____ email: _____

Phone Number: _____ Signature: _____

- I want to join SPCA and live in the area bordered by Eastern Avenue on the north, Aspen Street on the south, Georgia Avenue (west side) on the east, and Rock Creek Park on the west.
- I don't live in the neighborhood, but would like to be a community supporter of SPCA.
- Add me to the Shepherd Park email group.

\$____ Dues: \$20/household \$____ Contribution \$____ TOTAL

Make your check payable to SPCA and mail to:
 SPCA, 7826 Eastern Ave., NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20012

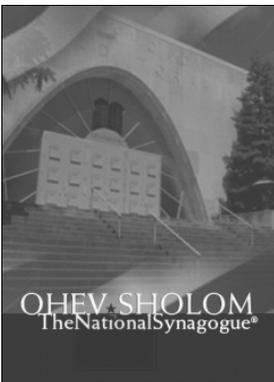
Not a Registered Voter?

Register to vote, change your address, request an absentee ballot, and find your polling place online at www.dcboee.org/voterreg/vic_index.shtml

Clean Up Day

The Fenwick Branch and its parklands along Kalmia Road and East Beach and West Beach drives is a site for the 20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up Day, 8:30 am–12 pm, on Saturday, April 5.

Volunteers are needed. This stream valley park and waterway is in distress and needs our help. For information or to volunteer, contact Clif Grandy at 291-1152.



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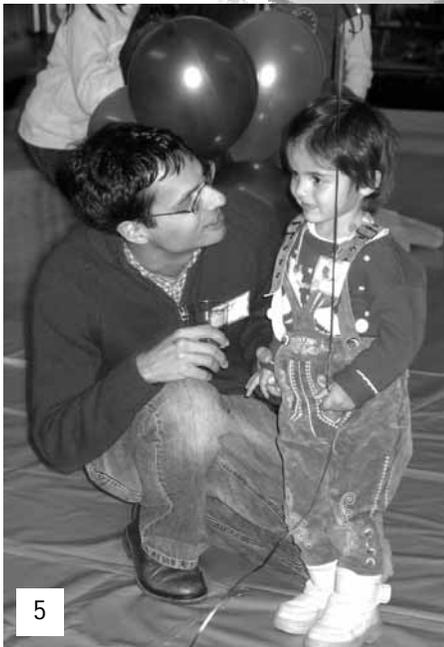
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This year's Potluck would not have been possible without the leadership of co-chairs Christine Martin and Rosalyn Wilcots and the help of many more volunteers: Gina Winstanley, her friend, John, Paul Coates, Mary Niles, Dwayne Toliver, Gloria Owens, Charisse Brossard, Angie Martin, Cynthia Prather, Joan Hoyte, Stephanie Benton, Noreen Conway, Enjoli Timmons and all the others who stuck around to make sure the room was clear. A big thank you to the Lowell School for hosting us once again and special thanks to Lowell staff members Jack Jones and Chris Bonner for all the hard work they did with tables, chairs and trash.

uck 2008



Photos 1 and 3: Beth Allaben,
 Photos 2 and 8: Carlton Smith,
 Photos 4 and 7: Raj Choudury,
 Photos 5 and 6: Maggie Häusler



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8

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Shepherd Elementary School Notes

- After 3 ½ years as principal of Shepherd Elementary, Dan Robinson resigned in January. **Dr. John Sparrow**, the retired long-term principal at Marie Reed elementary school, has joined the school as **interim principal**. The school community is working with DC Public Schools to form a search committee with hopes of selecting a new principal by the end of this school year.
- The **Annual Shepherd Jazz Night** is Friday, March 7, 6:30–9:30 pm. It's a community potluck and concert that is fun for all ages.
- Mark your calendars! **Pre-registration** for neighborhood children who will be starting as new **Pre-k or kindergarten students** begins February 25. Out-of-boundary applications are being taken now through March 12 (at the school for pre-K-3rd grade, on the DCPS website for grades 4-6). If you know of any families outside of the neighborhood who are interested in attending Shepherd Elementary, please pass on this information.
- Help Shepherd Elementary financially without spending a dime! Just turn in the **Box Tops for Education** coupons found on products you probably already have in your cupboards. Each Box Top is worth 10¢. Contribute more by starting your online shopping at the Box Tops for Education Marketplace. Shepherd receives a donation of up to 8% from your qualifying purchases at retailers like *Oriental Trading, JC Penney, and Lands' End*. Go to www.boxtops4education.com for more information. Drop off your **Box Top** coupons in school's main office. Remember to double check that the Box Top coupons have not expired and that the date is intact. Questions? Contact Laura Noble at TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com.
- And it's not too early to start thinking about Shepherd Elementary's **annual auction** on Friday, May 16 at Howard University. If you have items to donate, contact Nayada Cowherd at [REDACTED].



Shepherd Park Parent Serves as Wilson SHS PTSA Co-President

Dissemination of information to the Wilson Senior High School community for a myriad of student activities and programs at Wilson is just one of the many roles of Shepherd Park parent Columbus Spruell, Jr. Columbus Spruell and Ward 3 parent Mary Giffin share the Co-Presidency of the Wilson Parent Teacher Student Association. Together, they carry out the challenging job of interacting with the Wilson school community across all Wards of the city to advocate the mission of the PTSA – to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school and community.

From February through June, the PTSA will conduct the Wilson "Phonathon" to raise funds money for all the wonderful programs supported by the Wilson PTSA. Pledges in the form of cash, check and VISA credit card are welcome. We are asking all Shepherd Park parents and Wilson alumni to help us in this worthy cause. For further information contact: Carmen Carrera 363-1497, ccarrera@unitehere.org, Mary Ann Castillo, 364-6718, mac4700@verizon.net, or Mike Zoeller, 244-2338, michael.zoeller@verizon.net.



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Valentine's Dance

■ By Rosemary Reed Miller. Photos by Daniel Hamilton.

Neighbors, Inc. had a wonderful, fun dance on February 2 at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 16th and Juniper Streets, NW. The dance has been held regularly for over 25 years. The dance chair, Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, estimated the crowd at over 200 people.

Gina instituted a baby-sitting room for young families to be able to attend. People who came early for coffee and tea were able to chat, snack and get acquainted. After 9 pm the DJ switched from background music to dance music.

Sponsors of the event were Dixon's Pest Control, Manoukian Brothers Rugs and artist Yvette Kraft. Also, many thanks to committee members Jean Bennett, Jackie Thornton, Rosemary Reed Miller, Loretta Neumann, Joe Hairston, Doris Collie and Susan Learmonth for all of their help. Neighbor's, Inc. President Chris Turner reported that the group had acquired enough funds to continue their support of libraries, schools and the historic Takoma Theatre. This past fall, Neighbors, Inc. gave 50 Coolidge Highschool classroom teachers \$25 gift cards from Office Depot. We hope to see you at next year's dance!



Want to Know What's Going on in Your Neighborhood?

Join the email group by sending a blank email to:
shepherdpark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 or contact Alex Kincannon at
alexandra.kincannon@verizon.net
 For comprehensive information about the neighborhood, visit Shepherd Park's official website at
www.shepherdpark.org



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+ GATEWAY NEWS + + GATEWAY NEWS + + GATEWAY NEWS +

“Good Things Are Happening” on the Gateway Georgia Avenue

■ By Marc Loud.

- Following trends throughout the city, **Tropicana Jamaican Eatery** (7812 Georgia Avenue) and **Nile Kitchen** (7815 Georgia) are reviewing the permitting and cost implications of outdoor patios.
- Karl Kennedy, owner of **Cork 'N Bottle Wine & Spirits** (7421 Georgia), is in dialogue with local artist Joel Bergner to have the north side of his store's facade repainted as a mural. And visit Cork 'N Bottle's new wine and champagne cellar.
- The former Long & Foster building at 7301 Georgia Avenue is **available for lease**. Recent survey data ranked a coffee shop as one of the top preferences for upper Georgia respondents. Got a bona-fide lead? Let Gateway know!
- Nancy Weil, office manager for **American Security and Communications** (7348 Georgia), recently published "Laundry Fugue" in

the anthology "Electric Grace-Still More Fiction By Washington Area Women."

- Gateway's **Main Street committees** are **ISO volunteers!** This year's volunteer driven projects



include plantings at the Shepherd Library, organization of the 2nd Annual S.E.E. Gateway Outdoor Event, the Georgia Avenue Spending Contest, a Health Fair, Kids Art Project, and Holiday Decoration initiative.

- **John Landis** (whose family owns the historic Crisfield Seafood) and **Neil Joffe** (a local visual artist) have joined Gateway's Silver Spring office. John will handle business outreach, and Neil will run Gateway's Heliport Gallery. Both are organizing south Silver Spring's first ever Acorn Market in May 2008.
- **Joshua Lopez** has joined Gateway's DC office where his duties include everything Clean, Green, and Safe! Josh oversees maintenance of planters and public spaces, and coordinates between Gateway businesses and public safety officials. And **Mary Hill** presides over Gateway's administrative duties.
- Gateway has hired two part-time **street sweepers** to keep the curbs, sidewalks, and treeboxes clean this year. In late Spring, Gateway will contract for watering services for the area's 27 corner planters and treeboxes.

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+ GATEWAY NEWS +

How to contact Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corp.:

www.gatewaycdc.com
7826 Eastern Ave., NW Suite 300,
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202-291-2400

Executive Director: Marc Loud
Gatewaycdc@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Mary Hill

Public Safety Manager:
Joshua Lopez
gatewayarts@aol.com

Gateway's Heliport Gallery
8001 Kennett St, Suite 3,
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-562-1400

Gallery Manager: Neil Joffe
gatewayarts@aol.com

Business Outreach: John Landis
gatewaybizmd@aol.com

Daytime, Evening and Weekend

Childcare. Parents, are you feeling over-stretched or looking for a date night? If so, call Shepherd Park resident Enjoli at 286-7731 or enjolitimmons@hotmail.com for experienced, personable and trustworthy childcare. Serving Shepherd Park families since 2004. Watch for errand and concierge services starting in Spring 2008!

Wireless Toyz Will Find the Best Phone for You

■ Article and Photo by Aziza Tichavakunda.

We use them everyday, relying on them for various activities that range from work to leisure to emergencies. Cell phones have become a constant companion to people of all walks of life. However, are you using the



Michael Hewitt in his store.

phone that is most appropriate for your lifestyle? Are you paying too much for a cell phone that does not have all the capabilities that you need or does your phone have more bells and whistles than needed? Why not visit *Wireless Toyz* at the corner of Georgia and Eastern Avenues?

Michael Hewitt opened *Wireless Toyz* in Shepherd Park two years ago, picking the location because of its visibility. Walking by the glass storefront of *Wireless Toyz*, lines of cell phones await your gaze, along with a

bright sign reading "Your Cellular Superstore!" The building's glass walls and open interior are certainly eye-catching.

Wireless Toyz offers a wide variety of options, selling phones from multiple carriers such as *Sprint*, *AT&T*, *T-Mobile*, *Verizon*, *Helio*, *Alltel* and *Nextel*. This Superstore also offers unbiased expert assistance in comparing cell phones from different companies and choosing a phone with capabilities, accessories, and a rate plan that works best for you. *Wireless Toyz* also sells satellite televisions and satellite radios.

Mr. Hewitt enjoys the area because of the kindness of the customers and the other businesses in the area. After visiting the *Wireless Toyz* store, Mr. Hewitt ensures that "We can find the best fit for each customer."

Aziza Tichavakunda is a sophomore at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and a graduate of Shepherd Elementary and Deal Junior High.

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Shepherd Park Calendar of Events

Continuing

- **Tuesdays, 10 am**
Storytime for Preschoolers and
11 am, Tales for 2s, ShPk Library
- **Thursdays, 10:30 am**
Preschool Movies and Songs,
ShPk Library
- **First Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm**
Arts and crafts for all ages,
ShPk Library
- **Saturdays, 1 pm**
Scrabble for all ages, ShPk Library
- **Sundays, Feb 17-Mar 9, 8 pm**
"Parallel Narratives:
Israel & Palestine,"
taught by Ira Weiss,
Tifereth Israel Congregation,
882-1605 ext 101 or
tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org

February & March

- **Tues, Feb 26, 7 pm**
SPCA Community Meeting,
Shepherd Elem.
- **Sun, Mar 2, 3 pm**
Author Carolivia Herron reads
from her children's book "Always
an Olivia," Tifereth Israel Congre-
gation, 7701 16th St.
- **Tues, Mar 4, 7:15 pm**
ANC 4A mtg,
Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- **Fri, Mar 7, 6:30-9:30 pm**
Shepherd Elem. Jazz Night
Concert & Potluck
- **Sat, Mar 8, 12, 11 am**
PSA 401 mtg, ShPk Library
- **Wed, Mar 19, 6:45 pm**
Shepherd Elem. PTA meeting
- **Sat, Mar 29, 8:30 am-12 pm**
Northern Corner-North Portal

Estates Tree Planting, funded by
the Casey Trees Foundation, to
volunteer contact Clif Grandy
at 291-1152.

April

- **Tues, Apr 1, 7:15 pm**
ANC 4A mtg,
Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- **Sat, Apr 5, 8:30 am-12 pm**
20th Potomac River Watershed
Clean Up Day, Fenwick Branch @
Kalmia Road and East Beach/West
Beach Drives, to volunteer contact
Clif Grandy at 291-1152
- **Sat, Apr 12, 11 am**
PSA 401 mtg, ShPk Library
- **Tues, Apr 14, 7 pm**
SPCA Community Meeting,
Shepherd Elem.
- **Wed, Apr 23, 6:45 pm**
Shepherd Elem. PTA meeting

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