



Shepherd Park News

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

2007 Vol., Issue 4

www.shepherdpark.org

DEC 2007/JAN 2008

SPCA Annual Potluck

■ By Rosalyn Wilcots and Christine Martin.

Come celebrate the New Year with your neighbors! You and your family are cordially invited to the Fourth Annual Shepherd Park Citizens Association New Year's Potluck. This year it will be held on Sunday, January 20 from 5-7 pm in the Lowell School dining room. Please come and bring a dish to share according to the first letter of your last name:

New Year's Potluck
Sunday, January 20, 5-7 pm
Lowell School

If your last name starts with:

A-H bring a dessert

I-P bring a main dish

Q-Z bring a salad or side dish

If you don't feel like cooking, you can always bring drinks or make a small donation.

SPCA will provide beer, wine, and other non-alcoholic drinks. Also, remember to wear your dancing shoes because the talented Key Bridge Trio will be playing live jazz for us once again. There will be children's activities too, so don't forget to bring everyone! Formal invitations will be mailed out in early January along with the SPCA membership renewal. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, monitor food and drink tables, and to help clean up. Please contact Christine Martin at 723-0976 or christine@dcmartins.com or con-



Photo: Raj Choudhury.

Special Holiday Issue with Everything about Snow, Gift Ideas and More Inside!

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Washington's 10,000+ Points of Light

■ Excerpted with permission from an article by Theodore Fischer.

Unlike some cities we know, Washington isn't much into Yuletide exuberance, except at the Bishop's House. Located in the closest place in the District to the North Pole – on North Portal Drive a couple of blocks west of 16th Street – this spectacular sound-and-light show has been stopping traffic for more than 30 years. The display of at least 10,000



Photo with permission of Theodore Fischer.

lights adorns the Tudor-style mini-castle and grounds occupied by the leader of the D.C.-based United House of Prayer for All People. The Bishop's House cheerfully mixes complicated configurations of Christmas symbols sacred and secular: a life-size Nativity scene beside a bower of candy canes, soaring stone angels and a Santa's sleigh guided by Rudolph with a Christmas-light red nose.

Continued on page 4.

Three Ways to Help Our Trees

■ By Beth Allaben.

Plant: Get a \$50 rebate from Casey Trees (caseytrees.org) when you plant a large canopy tree on your property by December 31. Put together a group of volunteers and make a request to Casey Trees to plant trees on private or public prop-



Neighbor Scott Opis helps Shepherd Elementary's sixth graders plant trees at the school. Eight trees were donated by Casey Trees and the students will care for the trees. Photo: Noreen Conway

erty. The deadline for requesting Fall 2008 plantings is June 15. Report tree boxes needing trees by calling 727-1000 or make a service request online at dc.gov. The city gives first priority to planting requests received on or before June 15.

Water: DC's Urban Forestry Administration says street trees take two years to get established and a newly planted tree will need water about three times per week. They recommend watering with 15 gallons

with a watering can or plastic bucket in the evening or by placing your hose at a very low volume (a trickle) at the base of the tree and letting it run for 2-4 hours until the water no longer penetrates the soil and begins to run off the top.

Check before you cut: DC law requires you to get a permit before cutting down a "special tree," which is any tree with a circumference of 55 inches or larger. Don't count on your tree service to get the permit or to know about the law. **The penalty for failing to get a permit is \$100 per inch of circumference of the tree.** This requirement applies to all special trees, whether on public or private land, dead or alive. A permit to cut down the tree will be issued only if:

- An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist asserts the tree as hazardous to life and/or property, or
- The tree is one of these species: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven); *Morus species* (Mulberry); *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple), or
- You agree to (a) plant a quantity of saplings whose aggregated circumference equals or exceeds the circumference of the tree to be removed; (b) pay into the Tree Fund a tree replacement fee of \$35 per inch of circumference of the tree to be removed; or (c) perform a combination of both (a) and (b).

You must apply for and receive the permit before cutting down the tree. Permits are available online at ufa.ddot.dc.gov

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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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Calendar of SPCA Events

- **New Year's Potluck:**
Sun, Jan 20, 5-7 pm, Lowell School
- **SPCA Community Meeting:**
Tues, Feb 12, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **SPCA Community Meeting:**
Tues, Apr 8, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Garden Tour:** Sun, May 18
- **Yard Sale:** Sat, May 31 and Sun, June 1
- **SPCA Annual Meeting & Election:**
Tues, June 12, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Picnic:** Sun, June 22, 2-6 pm, Lowell field



Where there's a Walk there's a Way

■ By Sekou Biddle.

It's already time to start thinking about this Winter's first snowfall. You ARE looking forward to the first snowfall, right? The sledding, the snowmen, the snow covered trees ... and the shoveling. Before you head out with your sled, grab your shovel and do your civic duty. Yes, you do have to shovel your walk.

And while you're at it why not lend a helping hand to a neighbor or two? Of course, we are all responsible for the length of the sidewalk in front of our own home. And yes, your neighbor should do his or her part too. But what is the

harm in helping out? Besides, think of the goodwill you can create. Wouldn't it be great to come out one snowy morning ready to shovel and find part of the job done? Give one of your neighbors a surprise and who knows, some day they may repay the favor. Happy sledding!



Jonquil Street in Winter of 2003

Photo: Beth Allaben.

It's the Law

You must clear snow and ice from sidewalks, handicap ramps and steps abutting your property within the first eight daylight hours after snow, sleet or ice stop falling (DC Code, 2001 Ed, § 9-601). This applies to all property owners – residential, commercial, federal, and municipal. If ice cannot be cleared without damaging the sidewalk, then property owners may spread sand or salt to make the sidewalks safe (DC Code, 2001 Ed, § 9-604). Property owners must also clear snow from the ADA-curb cuts. These are part of the sidewalk. According to the municipal Code, if property owners fail to comply, the District is required to clear their sidewalks (DC Code, 2001 Ed., § 9-605) and sue the property owners for the cost of clearing the snow or ice plus a \$25 fine (DC Code, 2001 Ed., § 9-606).

Where to Look for Help:

Thanks to Shepherd Park neighbor Wallace Holland for compiling this list of individuals and businesses recommended by neighbors who will shovel snow.

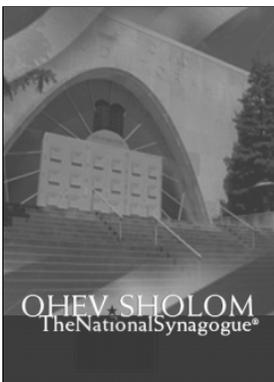
Volunteers:

- **Tommy and Chris Williamson**
Poplar Lane, NW, 202-726-5246
- If the mayor declares a state of emergency during a snowstorm, **seniors can call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center** 202-727-1000 and request snow removal help from volunteers (source: DC Authority on Aging, 202-724-5626)
- **McLean Bible Church Uptown**
James Misner, Director of Outreach,
james.misner@mcleanbible.org
703-770-2917, www.mcleanbibleuptown.org

- **Seniors should check with the church** they are affiliated with to find out if there are volunteers who will come out & assist them with snow shoveling.

Individuals and Companies For Pay:

- **Jason Mulveny**
Alaska Ave., NW, 202-701-7732
- **Casa De Maryland Silver Spring Workers' Center**
734 University Blvd. E., Silver Spring
301-431-4177, mescoabar@casamd.org
Will bring groups of workers to the neighborhood on snow days to shovel snow.
- **Takoma Tree Experts**, 202-387-8733
3-4 neighbors who need their driveways plowed must join as one job! They will shovel the sidewalks in addition to plowing. If they are in the area doing a business, school, or church, they would stop by to shovel for a homeowner. However, they are not likely to come out just to shovel snow for one homeowner.



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Heading the Call to Serve...

■ By Linda Wharton-Boyd.



When the call went out for someone to fill a local ANC vacancy, it went unanswered for a while, leaving some citizens concerned and asking, who will serve? Then a voice finally called out, "Here am I, send me. I will serve!!" Last month, Karl Kennedy, lifetime DC resident and Ward 4 entrepreneur who owns Cork 'N Bottle, was elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (4A01) for Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, and small parts of Shepherd Park. When asked why he ran, he stated, "It gives me a chance to give back to my community and to make a real difference."

As a business owner, Karl has a great deal of experience working with city agencies and will bring his experiences and expertise to his position as Commissioner.

As he works for a better Ward 4, he wants to ensure that residents continue to receive quality constituent services, to develop a viable plan to manage the dangerous speed traffic

that flows from Maryland to DC through upper Ward 4, to address spiraling property taxes, and to urge citizens to become actively involved in their community. "I believe we must plan and execute to achieve," said Kennedy.

Married to Lisa Kennedy, Karl is the father of two young children. The Kennedys reside in Colonial Village.

■ **ANC 4A01:** Commissioner **Karl Kennedy** – North Portal Estates, Colonial Village and parts of Shepherd Park
karl@corknbottledc.com

■ **ANC 4A02:** Commissioner **Jourinia Brown** – Vice-Chairperson – Shepherd Park
RLJSB@aol.com

■ **ANC 4A03:** Commissioner **Stephen A. Whatley** – Chairperson – Part of Shepherd Park and Brightwood
quepuppy@yahoo.com

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A

7600 Georgia Avenue, NW,
Suite 404 · DC 20012 · 291-9341

Meeting Location:

Fort Stevens Recreation Center
13th & Van Buren Streets, NW

Meeting Date: 1st Tuesday
(except July and August) 7:15 pm

From page 1. Around back, a giant snowman occupies a hilltop overlooking Christmas trees dedicated to DC and each of the 24 states with United House of Prayer congregations. Although the house is now occupied by the current bishop, S.C. Madison (his photograph hangs above the front door), the bishop who turned on the lights in 1963 was Walter "Sweet Daddy" McCollough, the church's charismatic leader from 1960 until his death in 1991. A spellbinding preacher, McCollough was credited with increasing church membership to some 3 million worldwide, constructing low-rent housing in DC and half a dozen other cities and making his imprimatur all but essential for election to office in the District.

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Daytime, Evening and Weekend

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Will the tape measure the same...after the holidays? Now is the time to work on it!

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Notes from the Health Corner

■ By Cara Biddle, MD, MPH.

The flu has arrived in Washington! Have you gotten your flu shot yet? No? It's not too late.

Who? You should strongly consider getting a flu shot if you are:

- 6 months-5 years old or 50 years or older
- Pregnant during the flu season
- A resident in a nursing home or other chronic care facility
- A health care provider
- Someone with asthma, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, seizures, diabetes, anemia, or a weakened immune system from HIV, cancer, or long term use of corticosteroids like prednisone

A flu shot is also strongly recommended for anyone who lives with someone in these categories.

When? Even though it's ideal to get vaccinated early, the flu shot can still be helpful later. Even as late as January, there are still 2 or 3 months left in the flu season.

What? People who are healthy and are between 2-49 years of age can get either the flu shot or the intranasal vaccine, which is sprayed in the nose. People with long-term medical problems or weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and children under age five with recurrent

wheezing should not get the intranasal vaccine.

Where? Many doctor's offices and local pharmacies sponsor flu clinics. You can find a flu clinic at the American Lung Association's Flu Clinic Locator Site: www.flucliniclocator.org

The fine print: You should talk with your doctor if you are allergic to eggs or have had a previous allergic reaction to the flu shot or a component of the flu shot. You may get the flu shot if you are sick with a mild illness. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait to get the flu shot until they have recovered.

Holiday Sale on SP Apparel!

This Holiday Season, what better way to say "Welcome Home" to your college student than with a nice and toasty Shepherd Park sweatshirt? Or how about a Shepherd Park shirt for the babysitter? And let's not forget your children at home, who can wear a Shepherd Park t-shirt to school. Shepherd Park t-shirts and sweatshirts make terrific gifts for parents and in-laws. The slogan "A Garden of Diversity" speaks not only to our community pride for living in Washington's most diverse neighborhood, but also to the natural green beauty of this garden we live in. **Call Angela Martin at 723-0323 to find out about available sizes.**



Great Gift Idea!

The sweatshirts and T-shirts are white with red print (a few gray shirts with blue print remain).

Adult sizes: Sweatshirts regularly \$25, now \$22 for the holidays (**\$18 for SPCA members**)
T-shirts regularly \$15, now \$13 for the holidays (**\$11 for SPCA members**)

Youth sizes: Sweatshirts regularly \$20, now \$17 for the holidays (**\$13 for SPCA members**)
T-shirts regularly \$12, now \$10 for the holidays (**\$8 for SPCA members**)
(limited sizes and colors)

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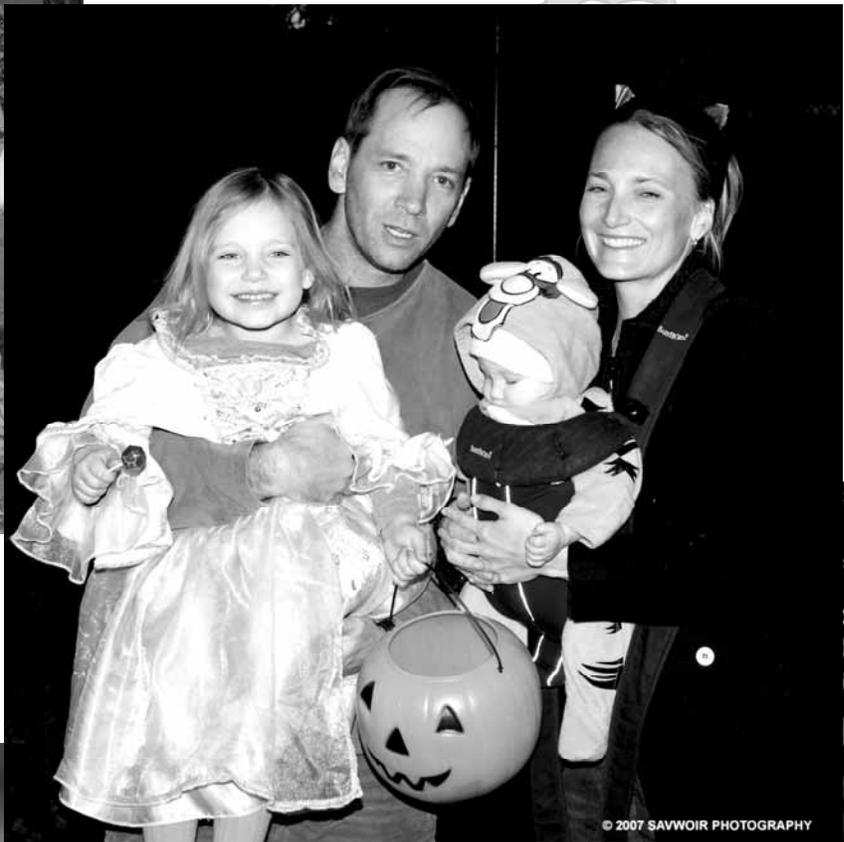
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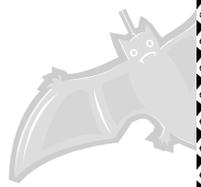
HALLOWEEN 2



Photos courtesy of
Ed Savvoir
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VEEN 007



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The winner for best house decorations **and** funkiest house decorations **and** best pumpkins was the family at 1321 Jonquil Street.

The winner for funkiest pumpkins was 1301 Floral Street.

Honorable mentions for decorations go to 1215 Holly Street and 1337 Jonquil Street.

Photos: Beth Allaben



Books Not Burgers

■ Adapted with permission from an article by Head Librarian Winnell Montague.

A plan to build a public library branch in the Shepherd Park neighborhood first arose in 1984, when residents proposed the placement of a library on a site slated for a Wendy's restaurant. Juanita E. Thornton, a retired DC school teacher and community activist, concerned about the construction of another new fast food restaurant, quickly united the



Head Librarian Winnell Montague (standing, right) and Mark Pattison (standing, left) at one of the author events in 2005. Photo: Shepherd Park Library Staff.

community to stop the restaurant from being erected, using the rallying cry of "Books Not Burgers." In the view of the citizens of Shepherd Park, the Georgia Avenue corridor was already inundated with commercial fast food chains, and a library would better serve the community.

The community was successful in convincing the DC Public Library, and accordingly, in July 1985, the Library's Board of Trustees voted to build the library. DC City Council appropriated \$3.3 million in 1985 for the design and construction of the neighborhood library.

The library opened to an appreciative community on July 29, 1990. In October 1992, the library held a renaming ceremony to honor Juanita E. Thornton, the primary force behind the establishment of the branch. Thornton had passed away on September 14, 1990, and the community felt the need to recognize her efforts and honor her memory. Thus, the Shepherd Park Branch became the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library.

The Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library was organized in the fall of 1990. This organization continues to provide support to the branch through its fundraising, volunteer, and advocacy activities.

Today, the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library serves its community with a wide range of reference and reader's advi-

Become a "Friend" of the Library

The Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library sponsors arts and crafts activities, the summer reading program, author talks, and other activities for readers of all ages.

The Friends meet at the library at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month. The Friends is a place to make your voice heard about your local library.

Support the Friends by becoming a member for 2008! Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, and \$5 for seniors. Make out your check to the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library and mail it to the library (7420 Georgia Ave., NW, DC 20012). The Friends are also looking for board members for 2008. If you are interested, contact Liz McNichol at ecmcnichol@comcast.net.

sory services, meeting spaces, over 500 musical compact discs, 300 Books-on-Tape, and 300 videotapes. The library hosts book clubs, author talks and children's story times. Other recurring activities include music recitals, community meetings, and a Saturday Scrabble.



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Bingo, Piñatas, and Parties – More than just Books

■ Article and photo by Lucas Houk and Pat Bailey.

Lucas: Did you have fun playing bingo?
Anina: Yes.

Lucas Houk, age 15, volunteers two days a week in the children's section of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library. Anina Ertel, the children's librarian, supervises him. Lucas shelves books, prepares crafts for story time and makes decorations for the parties held at the library. Party? Yes, the library organizes social gatherings for

children and teens all year long. The Summer Quest Party was a huge success. Over 40 children celebrated their summer reading accomplishments. Recently, the library hosted a Halloween Party, Teen Game Night, and Teen Movie Night. More game and movie nights are planned. Lucas recently interviewed Anina for this article:

Lucas: Did you hand out awards?

Anina: Yes, to all Summer Quest readers.

Lucas: What is your favorite part of Bingo?

Anina: Having someone to help me.

Lucas: Did you like the piñata?

Anina: Yes, this was the first year we had a piñata at the summer party.

Lucas: What type of meetings do you go to?

Anina: The meetings where we decide which new books will be in the library.

Lucas: What is your favorite book?

Anina: *Ferdinand the Bull*. I love the drawings and the story.

Anina and the new part-time children's librarian, Elissa Webber, are expanding the selection of teen books at the library, including graphic novels, which are very popular for all ages. Anina and Elissa also host events for the very young and have story time for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers every Tuesday.

What does Anina say about Lucas? "He is a great teen volunteer at the library. Lucas is a hard worker and fun to be around."

Lucas Houk, a lifelong resident of Shepherd Park, is a 9th grader at the Katherine Thomas School, which specializes in studies for students with autism. He has been volunteering at the library for the past year.



Lucas is coding new book arrivals while Anina Ertel, Children's Librarian checks in with Sally, the library hamster and Winnell Montague, Head Librarian works at the computer.

Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library

7420 Georgia Avenue, NW
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Mon, Wed: 9:30 am - 9 pm
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Look on page 12 for a list of library programs.

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■ By Beth Allaben.

If you have attended a neighborhood event in the last year, you have probably encountered Anthony Bolling proclaiming, "We ship any size, anywhere!" What you probably



They originally planned to open a store near their home in Hillcrest. But when Anthony drove to Shepherd Park to deliver their purchase offer for the southeast DC location, 7-year-old Aliza pointed to a "for lease" sign and said, "Hey daddy, this would make a great place for our new Postal Connections business." The owners of the first location rejected the offer and in July 2006, Postal Connections

opened on Eastern Avenue.

In addition to shipping "any size, anywhere," Postal Connections can receive packages and cargo from any shipper – USPS, FedEx, UPS, DHL, freight carriers, retail stores – and your packages (even furniture) will be waiting for you to arrange for their pick up. The store will also pick up and deliver larger packages from your home or office and offers copying, fax, and internet services.

Anthony, Aliza, and son, Absalom, attended last summer's picnic when SPCA recognized Postal Connections' community support with a Business of the Year award. Anthony says, "All the marketing in the world means very little if you don't form a relationship with the people and community you are serving. Having Phyllis Jackson as our store manager is priceless. Everyone loves Phyllis because Phyllis genuinely loves everyone."

do not know is that it was Anthony's daughter who brought Postal Connections to Shepherd Park.

In 2000, Anthony and his wife, Melinda, were busy professionals balancing the demands of work and family. Internet shopping was a way of life, but they often were not home to accept the packages. Seeing a niche to be filled, they decided to start a business that would provide a more convenient and safe way to receive packages.



Postal Connections General Manager Anthony Bolling and Store Manager Phyllis Jackson. Photos: Postal Connections.

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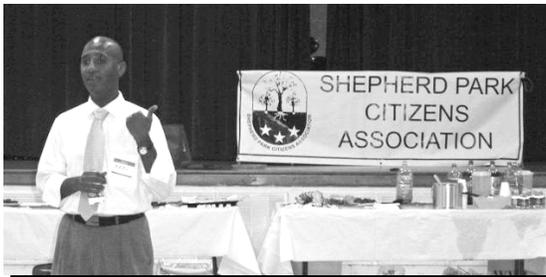
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“Good Things Are Happening” on the Gateway Georgia Avenue

■ Article and photo by Beth Allaben.

Even the incredible heat and humidity of one of the last hot days of summer did not put much of a damper on the energy level at the Shepherd Park Citizens Association's first Georgia Avenue Showcase on October 9.



Neil Albert, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (and Shepherd Park resident) discussed the role of his office in implementing development plans.

Nineteen representatives of 13 Georgia Avenue businesses and organizations set up tables and shared information with more than 60 neighbors.

Councilmember Bowser reminded us of how important our input will be when the DC Council reviews the Upper Georgia Avenue Development Land Plan (for more info on the plan go to: <http://planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,A,1285,Q,638046.asp>).

Councilmember Brown talked

about how a business in his neighborhood gave him his first job as a youth and some of the issues before the Council's Committee on Economic Development. Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Neil Albert, discussed the role of his office in implementing development plans and Gateway Georgia Avenue Executive Director Marc Loud provided updates on some recent changes in ownership of buildings on Georgia Avenue. All agreed that the businesses already on Georgia Avenue are the key to future success – and that, as neighbors, we can help by

patronizing these pioneer businesses right now. Many thanks to the businesses that participated in the Showcase. A number of other businesses were very interested in the event, but could not attend because of schedule conflicts. We will look forward to an even greater participation by our local businesses at next year's Georgia Avenue Showcase.

Great things are happening on Georgia Avenue – take the time to visit our local businesses!

Georgia Avenue Showcase Exhibitors:

- **American Security and Communications**
202-829-7327, ASCprotects.com
- **Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corp.**
202-291-2400, gatewaycdc.com
- **A Great Smile Dental Care**
202-726-5106
- **Ledo Pizza and Pasta**
202-726-5336, ledopizza.com
- **Manoukian Brothers Rugs**
202-882-7847, manoukianbros.com
- **National Museum of Health and Medicine**
nmhm.washingtondc.museum
- **RE/MAX Allegiance Shepherd Park**
202-580-6600, theassociatebroker.com
- **Rex Cleaners**
202-291-2121
- **Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Library and Friends of Shepherd Park Library**
202-541-6100, dcpl.dc.gov
- **SisterSpace and Books**
sisterspace.com
- **State Farm Insurance**
Keith Edwards, 202-726-7771
- **Wireless Toyz**
202-291-8699, wirelessstoyz.com



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Shepherd Park Calendar of Events

Continuing

- ▶ **Dec 1 – Jan 12**
Italy: Past and Present
Exhibit at the Gateway Heliport Gallery,
8001 Kennett St, Silver Spring,
gatewaycdc.com or 301-562-1400
- ▶ **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 pm**
Arts and crafts for all ages, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Saturdays, 1 pm**
Scrabble for all ages, ShPk Library

December

- ▶ **Tues, Dec 4, 7:15 pm**
ANC 4A mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- ▶ **Wed, Dec 5, 5:30 pm**
Teen Game Night, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Sat, Dec 8, 11 am**
PSA 401 mtg, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Sat, Dec 15, 11 am-4 pm**
Last Silver Spring Outdoor Artist Market,

Ellsworth and Fenton on the Astroturf,
Brenda Smoak, 301-675-9544

- ▶ **Mon, Dec 17, 5:30 pm**
Teen Movie Night, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Mon, Dec 17, 7 pm**
Friends of Library mtg, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Dec 20-26**
Lowell School Winter Break Club, \$70/day,
register by Dec 12, Dawn Smith, 577-2006

January

- ▶ **Tues, Jan 8, 7:15 pm**
ANC 4A mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- ▶ **Sat, Jan 12, 11 am**
PSA 401 mtg, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Sun, Jan 20, 5-7 pm**
SPCA New Year's Potluck, Lowell School

February

- ▶ **Tues, Feb 5, 7:15 pm**
ANC 4A mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- ▶ **Sat, Feb 9, 11 am**
PSA 401 mtg, ShPk Library
- ▶ **Tues, Feb 12, 7 pm**
SPCA Community Meeting, Shepherd Elem.

For more news about the neighborhood, join the email group by sending a blank email to:

shepherdpark-subscribe@yahoo.com

or contact **Alex Kincannon** at
alexandra.kincannon@verizon.net

For comprehensive information, visit
SPCA's official website at
www.shepherdpark.org

Neighbors, Inc. News:

Mark your calendar! This year's Neighbors Inc. Valentine's Dance will be **Saturday, February 2 at Tifereth Israel**. But before you dust off your dancing shoes, let Gina Winstanley know if you can help with some of the advance work or volunteer on the night of the dance. Help carry on this neighborhood tradition – **contact Gina at Ginaaw@aol.com or 723-1714.**



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