SPCA
Shepherd Park Citizens Association

Shepherd Park News

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

2006 Vol., Issue 4 www.shepherdpark.org

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, October 10, 7 pm
SPCA Community Meeting
at Shepherd Elementary School.
A DPW Representative will speak!

If Trees Could Talk

A Brief History of Shepherd Park ■ By Maggie Haeusler

It's that time of the year again, when the days are finally cooler and the majestic oak trees in my backyard are shedding their leaves. Clearly, those trees must have stood here long before the house was built. Perhaps they were already here when the entire region consisted of farms and forests, and nobody would have pictured it as the idyllic middle-class neighborhood that it is today.

In 1864 the area enters the history books for the first time as a battleground where Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Stevens.

View of the area around 1900

Four years later, Alexander "Boss" Shepherd, then the territorial governor of the District of Columbia, started to build an impressive mansion at what is now 14th and Geranium Streets. He named it "Bleak House" after a Charles Dickens novel.

A Victorian-style mansion that still stands at 7714 13th Street is now sometimes erroneously referred to as the "Shepherd Mansion"; unfortunately, the original "Bleak House" was demolished in 1916.

Although more wealthy Washingtonians followed and built their summer homes here, the area remained rural and idyllic, mostly due to the fact that it was too far from downtown to be comfortably reached.

A major milestone in the history of Shepherd Park was the construction of Walter Reed Army Medical Center that opened in 1909. Starting out with just three buildings, the complex nowadays has 150 buildings, including the National Museum of Health and Medicine that is open to the public. The Center is scheduled to close by the end of this decade, and the future of the site is currently uncertain.

The Medical Center also put Shepherd Park on the map of developers, and slowly the neighborhood started to take the shape that it has today.

Continued on page 7

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HALLOWEEN

You're invited! The Shepherd Elementary School PTA will kick off Halloween with a **Fall Festival** at the Shepherd field on Saturday, Oct. 28, 11 am – 3 pm Look for rides, carnival games, face painting, hot dogs and popcorn. Also on Saturday, Oct. 28, SPCA will hold our annual **Halloween Parade**. Gather at the Shepherd field at **5:30 pm.** The parade will start promptly at 6 pm. Kids: Bring a bag with you for treats! Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 29, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, with the parade starting at 5 pm. The **annual house and pumpkin decoration** contest will take place at dusk on Sunday, Oct. 29. Results will be posted that night on the Shepherd Park listserv. To enter your house, or pumpkins, or both in the contest, contact Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Neighborhood children will be trick-or-treating Tuesday, Oct. 31. We'll compile a list of addresses giving out treats. The first edition will be available at the Halloween parade, and a final edition will be posted on the listserv. To be on the list, contact Mark at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com

The picture of this little angel was taken at last year's parade.

Message From the President

■ By Baruti Jahi, SPCA President

First and foremost, I'd like to thank all of our members for the hard work and support that you've given our community. The Shepherd Park Citizens Association is proud to continue our legacy of hard work and commitment to the District of Columbia. Shepherd Park is and will continue to be a diverse and friendly community that exemplifies the best our city has to offer. Without committed members like you, community outreach efforts such as the Orange Hat Patrol, Halloween Parade, New Years Potluck, and Annual Picnic would not be possible. Our core membership and volunteer support help us provide the programs that help make Shepherd Park a safer and family welcoming neighborhood.

SPCA, more than ever, is counting on your continued support for community outreach efforts this year. These efforts help to lay the foundation for unity and the enrichment and improvement of our neighborhood. Whether it's helping the kids at Shepherd Elementary or providing assistance to seniors in our community, continue to reach out to neighbors for the good of our community. Thanks to those that came before us SPCA has a proven track record of changing and improving the lives of Shepherd Park and neighboring communities. I urge you to continue this proud legacy for many years to come.

This year, our community outreach efforts continue to reflect our proud legacy of community involvement. SPCA provided support to National Night Out on August 1, which was a joint effort with the 4th Police District and neighboring communities to bring awareness to crime prevention strategies and community policing. On August 15, SPCA cosponsored a citywide political candidate forum with Neighbors Inc., and other community organizations, and Orange Hat Patrols continue to walk to make our community safe. SPCA plans to continue these community services and programs because they help to build a safer and unified community. Check the SPCA calendar of events below for this year's schedule of events.

Our first community meeting will be held on October 10, 7 pm at Shepherd Elementary. A representative from the District Government Department of Public Works will address our community.

As President, I look forward to working with our distinguished Board of Directors to improve the quality of life for all members of the Shepherd Park community.

Calendar of SPCA Events

- **SPCA Community Meeting:** Tues, Oct 10, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Halloween Parade:** Sat, Oct 28, 5:30-6:30 pm, Shepherd field parade at 6 pm - rain date Sun, Oct 29, 5 pm
- **SPCA Community Meeting:** Tues, Dec 12, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **New Years Potluck:** Sun, Jan 14, 5—7 pm, Lowell School
- **SPCA Community Meeting:** Tues, Feb 13, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **SPCA Community Meeting:** Tues, Apr 10, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Garden Tour:** Sun, May 20
- **Yard Sale:** Sat, June 2 and Sun, June 3
- **SPCA Community Meeting:** Tues, June 12, 7 pm, Shepherd Elem.
- **Picnic:** June/July

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Cynthia Lee, Vice President
994-4768 cylee@law.gwu.edu
Joan Hoyte, Vice President
884-2447 JEPHH@aol.com
Jane Davis Adams, Treasurer
726-0276 JaneDavisAdams@mris.com
Stephanie Benton, Secretary
StephB1027@aol.com

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291-4791 enviro1111@aol.com
Noreen Conway
722-6263
noreenandbob@starpower.net
Enjoli Timmons
286-7731 EnjoliTimmons@hotmail.com

At-Large Members:
Dan Nathan
726-7177 dananddori@verizon.net
Alex Kincannon
541-9440
alexandra.kincannon@verizon.net
Cynthia Prather
882-7419 cynthia@caii.com

Delegates to the Federation of Citizens Associations:
Marilyn Sneiderman
679-0353 sneiderman156@msn.com
Rosalyn Wilcots
829-6860 rosalyn.wilcots@mspb.gov
Angela Martin
Angela.Martin@USPTO.gov

Appointed Member to the Board:
Margie Odle
726-6415 modle@s-3.com

Immediate Past President:
Dwayne Toliver
585-8852 dtoliver@nixonpeabody.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
Pat Bailey
locustrdpat@starpower.net 291-9055
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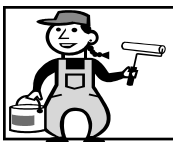

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Northminster Presbyterian to Celebrate a Century in Shepherd Park Community

■ By Reverend Leonard V. Lassiter, Pastor

On the corner of Alaska Avenue and Kalmia Road, sits a church made of gray stone with bright red entry doors. It has a massive stone sign announcing **Northminster Presbyterian Church**. The church has magnificent stained glass windows that glow when the sanctuary is lighted and it is dark outside. Would you believe it is the home of a 100-year-old congregation?

The first church built in Shepherd Park, Northminster had its origins in the 1906 merger of two center-city congregations. Northminster built a chapel at this site in 1926, which was later expanded in 1934. The Shepherd Park Citizens Association and many neighbors – even some who were not church members – were among those who contributed to the expansion fund.

On October 15 at 10 am, Northminster begins its next hundred years with a special anniversary service. Bishop Gregory Palmer, my roommate from Duke Divinity School and soon-to-be presiding bishop of the United Methodist Church, will be our keynote Preacher. We welcome all neighbors to this service and to the many programs we sponsor at Northminster.

Did you know we have a book review group that meets once a month? In September we discussed *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Cub Scout Pack 24 and Boy Scout Troop 24, both sponsored by Northminster, are among the oldest in the area. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am we offer a fitness class for seniors.

We are also interested in any ideas you may have for holding other community events in our building – we have a large social hall and many classrooms that can be used for meetings, toddler playgroups, music classes and more.

For more information about our programs or to contact us with ideas you may have for community activities at Northminster, visit www.northminster-dc.org or call the church at 829-5311.

Here Comes the Site! www.shepherdpark.org

■ By Dan Nathan

SPCA is proud to announce the launching of the official Shepherd Park website. Designed by members of the Board with assistance from an outside webdesigner, the site is intended to provide an introduction to the neighborhood for outsiders, and to serve as a resource for residents.

The website at www.shepherdpark.org is replete with features: local government and SPCA contacts; information for individuals and businesses to join the SPCA; local history; a directory of local schools and places of worship; and directions for how to join a block party. Other pages are under construction: a local calendar; a "welcome wagon" of resources for new residents; and a guide to local businesses.

We would love to have your creative input in completing the unfinished pages. As you know, there is practically no limit on the internet to the amount of information we can include. Please provide your ideas to any member of the Board. And in the meantime . . . take a stroll through our website.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Celebrating 100 Years 1906-2006

Sundays	9:30 am	Adult Bible Study
	11 am	Worship Service
	12:45 pm	Christian Women's Fellowship

Rev. L.V. Lassiter, Jr. **7720 Alaska Ave., NW**

829-5311 — www.northminster-dc.org

Join us for one of our programs — all are welcome!

- **Walking Group** – *Mon-Fridays, 6 am, 12th & Alaska*
- **Exercise Class** – *Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am*
- **Gospel Choir** – *Tuesdays, 7 pm*
- **Sewing Group** – *Wednesdays, 10 am*
- **Men's Singing Group** – *Wednesdays, 6:30 pm*
- **Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts** – *Saturdays, 8:30 am*
- **Thrift Shop** – *1st Saturday of month, 10 am -3 pm*
- **Book Review Group** – *3rd Saturday of month, 10 am*

Don't Miss our Fall Bazaar on Oct. 21, 9 am-3 pm

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Time to Check Out the Library

■ By Liz McNichol

The **Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library** is located at 7420 Georgia Avenue (near Geranium.)

Free wireless internet access was just installed. Tap into the web at the library on your laptop.

On Wednesday evenings (7:30—8:30 pm) meet talented neighbors at the **Shepherd Park Authors Series** - organized by Mark Pattison and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The full schedule (including a bonus Monday talk) is on this page.

Tuesday at 9:30 am is **story time for children** ages 3 to 5. Hear **Hispanic stories** on October 10; **Halloween stories** on October 31. **Tales for Twos** are presented at 11 am Tuesdays. **Pre-school films** for children ages 2 to 7 are shown on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

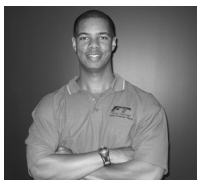
Don't miss the scary stories and films at the **Halloween party**, October 31 at 4 pm.

For the adults, a **book club** meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 1—3 pm The Scrabble club meets Saturdays from 1—5 pm.

Pick up a couple of bookmarks designed by young neighbors, Guyton Harvey and Alexa Hailes, winners of the DC Library Bookmark contest.

Support the library by joining the **Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Library**. (Applications at the library.) Meetings are at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month. Ginnie Cooper, the new DC Chief Librarian will be attending on October 16. The library opens Mon.—Sat. at 9:30 am and closes at 5:30 pm except Mon. and Wed. when it closes at 9:00 pm **As of October 15, the library will be open on Sundays, 1—5 pm.**

Head Librarian, Winnell Montague, and all the staff are always happy to help.



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Neigborhood Authors Series

All programs run at Juanita E. Thornton Library (7420 Georgia Ave.), **7:30-8:30 pm Admission is free.**

- **Monday, Oct. 2: Harold B. Confer**, author of three poetry collections, including his latest, "A Grandfather's Voice and That of a Friend"
- **Wednesday, Oct. 4: Rhonda Davis-Smith**, author of "Peaceful Public Speaking: Spiritual Meditations To Calm Your Nerves Before the Big Speech"
- **Wednesday, Oct. 11: Pavel Chichikov**, author of "Prophecy in Bridgeport," "Lion Sun," and "Mysteries and Stations," who will talk on "Dying and Living, Poems of Resurrection"
- **Wednesday, Oct. 18: Rosemary Reed Miller**, author of "The Threads of Time: The Fabric of History"
- **Wednesday, Oct. 25: Carolivia Herron**, author of "Nappy Hair," "Thereafter Johnnie" and "Little Georgia and the Apples"
- **Wednesday, Nov. 1: Clare Crawford-Mason**, author of, most recently, "The Nun and the Bureaucrat: How They Found an Unlikely Cure for America's Deadly Hospitals"
- **Wednesday, Nov. 8: Esther Iverem**, author of "Living in Babylon"
- **Wednesday, Nov. 15: Rovenia "Dr. Ro" Brock**, author of "Dr. Ro's Ten Secrets to Livin' Healthy"
- **Wednesday, Dec. 6: Faith DeVeaux**, author of "When Duty Calls" and producer of an upcoming documentary on World War II chaplains

Gateway Welcomes **Ledo Pizza and Pasta**, **Postal Connections**, and **Annie's Collection** to the upper Georgia Avenue corridor! Stay tuned for Gateway's new banners and business directory premiering in October! Good Things Are Happening!

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Ward 4 Councilmember Adrian Fenty Salutes the Shepherd Park Citizens Association and the Residents of Shepherd Park

Thanks!

to all neighbors who helped make our picnic a great success:

Beth Allaben
Stephanie Benton
Alex Boldin
Betty Boykin
Frank Borris
Charisse and Mario Brossard
Matt Chambers
Ken Clarke
Paula Edwards
Patrick Grobbel
Guy Harvey
Baruti Jahi
Alex Kincannon
Fay Lewis
Marc, Jennifer, Jordan and Marc Jr. Loud
Yvonne McIntyre
Liz McNichol
Rosemary Reed Miller
Aidan Moorehead
Lash Naidu
Dan and Isabel Nathan
Francis Nelson
Manny Patreich
Cynthia Prather
Bonnie and Arnold Randolph
Aracely Reyes
Anne Riley-Jahi
Fred Schirrmacher
Marianne Scott and her house guest Kelly, Justin, Brian and Tim Shuy
Marilyn Sneiderman
Calvin Snowden
Danny Swinson
Antar and Aziza Tichavakunda
Enjoli Timmons
Dwayne Toliver
Steve Whatley
Vanessa, Louie and Krista White
Charice and Dave Williams
Tanya Wright-Nelson

and to those whom we may have missed!

◄ Line dancing

Marc Loud presents Dwayne Toliver the Neighbor of the Year Award ▼

Picnic 2006

Neighbors ▲▲

Old and new ▲ president

More neighbors ▶

The Banjo Man ▼

■ Photos by Beth Allaben

Face painting ▶

We'd like to thank the following picnic donors who helped with donations of all sorts:

- Jose of D&S Home Improvement
- Adrian Fenty's Constituent Services Fund
- Linda Cropp
- Scott Bolden
- Ledo Pizza and Pasta – owned by Shepherd Park neighbors Tim and Kelly Shuy
- Tropicana
- Cleo's Brothers Electrical and General Contracting/Julius Ware
- Fitness Together/Ken Clarke
- CREATE Arts Center/Tamar Hendel
- Bonnie and Arnold Randolph
- Walter Gottlieb, producer of: Shepherd Park - Past and Present DVD
- Lowell School, especially Tara Wiebenson: site, storing supplies after rain, custodial support, tables, chairs, canopies
- Shepherd Elementary and June Confer: table and chairs

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Shepherd Park's Family Foodgoers Visit Ledo Pizza and Pasta

■ By The Family Foodgoer Review Team:
Ben (11), Anne (10), Amalia (6), Xavier (4) – and their parents

This is the first installment of a new column for the Shepherd Park News focusing on reviews of "family-friendly" local restaurants.

On a recent rainy Friday night, we stopped by the newly opened Ledo Pizza and Pasta which is owned and operated by two of Shepherd Park's very own, Tim and Kelly Shuy.

The restaurant was hopping when we arrived at 6:30 pm. Tim greeted us at the door and while we were looking for a table we chatted with several neighbors waiting for dinner.

Ledo's has a bright, energetic, family-friendly atmosphere and a staff that includes a number of neighborhood teenagers. A busy night meant a longer wait. Once our order was taken, the food was prepared and out of the kitchen in only a few minutes.

Left to right: Sandra, Alex, Ave and April ■ Photo: Pat Bailey

We sampled the pizza, salads, chicken parmesan sub, chicken wings, and, of course, mac n' cheese. What did the review team think? The pizza is outstanding! A large pizza was plenty for three adults and a hungry preteen.

Our pan-style thin pizza was shaped in rectangles, a Ledo's trademark, which was a big hit with Amalia. Our younger restaurant savvy critics liked the mac n' cheese, noting it was "not too cheesy, not too hot and lots of it."

No family restaurant visit would be complete without a trip to the bathroom. When asked to review the bathroom, Anne would only say "it was green." She did later observe that "Ledo's is good for kids because they will keep things plain."

Ledo's gets the thumbs up from the review team. Good food, family fun and reasonable prices.

Volunteers Needed!

■ By John Folger

As the new school year opens, **Shepherd Elementary** is searching for neighborhood volunteers to help during the morning and lunch hours, to ease morning traffic concerns and give the teachers a much needed lunch break.

Here's what we need:
Lunch Room/Recess Monitors: Join the kids for lunch and then watch them let out some energy on the playground. Daily from 12—1:15 pm, for grades 1st - 6th. If you cannot do it everyday, let us know your availability and we'll figure out the schedule.

Morning Greeters: We would like adult volunteers to escort arriving kids to the playground in the morning, and also monitors for the playground area until teachers pick them up at 8:40 am You will work in tandem with the "safety patrol" to whisk arriving kids to the appointed area, freeing parents from having to park and walk. Daily from 8—8:45 am Again, if you cannot commit to everyday, that is okay, just give what time you can. If you would like to help, please contact either June Confer at the school, 576-6140, or me via e-mail: jmf613@hotmail.com.
Thank you.

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If Trees Could…

Continued from page 1:

A grid for the streets named after garden plants typical for the area was laid out, and white middle-class residents started to move into their newly built Colonial and Tudor-style homes. The new homeowners were almost exclusively white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, since covenants banned "any Negro or colored person or person of Negro blood extraction" and generally anybody who was either non-white or Jewish from moving into the neighborhood.

A very active citizens' association was founded in 1917, to which Shepherd Park owes some major improvements. The most important of these was probably the opening of Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary School in 1932, which finally attracted more families to the area. The 1940s brought further demographic changes: Jewish families started to move into Shepherd Park and began forming a strong community. While Jewish businesses such as kosher meat markets may have disappeared from Georgia Avenue, two of the original three synagogues are very active to this day and serve large communities far beyond the boundaries of Shepherd Park.

Once the Supreme Court had nullified restrictive covenants in 1948, middle-class African Americans started moving into the neighborhood. The court decision had however not succeeded in abolishing discriminatory housing practices; African American home-buyers still faced obstacles, such as unreasonably high prices and unwelcoming neighbors. This was also the time of the infamous "block-busting", when realtors sold a single house on an otherwise white block to a black buyer, expecting the anxious white neighbors to sell their homes below market value as a result.

In Shepherd Park "block-busting" never took as much effect as it did in some other neighborhoods. In part we owe this success to a group of determined citizens who decided to stand up for an integrated neighborhood: Neighbors, Inc. was founded in 1958 and still focuses its activities mainly on integration.

Even though we would all like to think of integration not as an exception, but as reality in all parts of our lives, we know that it is not. And as Shepherd Park residents we should all be aware and proud of the fact that we live in one of the very few truly integrated communities of Washington.

Evening/weekend childcare.

Parents, are you feeling overstretched and in desperate need of some ME time or wishing to have a date night? If so, call Shepherd Park resident Enjoli (202-722-7541) or email enjolitimmons@hotmail.com for experienced, personable and trustworthy childcare service. Serving Shepherd Park families since 2004. References on request.

The Traffic Study is Complete and the "Pez Dispenser" Stays!

■ By Pat Bailey

The MD State Highway Administration staff completed a review of the effect of the new Welcome to Silver Spring sign. **Their findings?** They concur with SP neighbors' concerns that the "Pez Dispenser" welcome sign provides a confusing message for motorists approaching the District of Columbia.

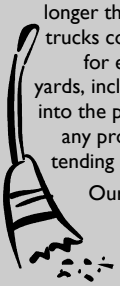
The resolution? INSTALL ANOTHER SIGN! They will install a directional white on green sign in the median just prior to the "Welcome to Silver Spring" sign along southbound MD 390. The new sign will depict a circle with arrows and their designated street names clarifying the directions of all five legs of the roundabout including the directions of D.C. and Silver Spring. **Scheduled completion?** Fall 2006.

Alley Cleanup

From the Desk of William O. Howland, Jr., Director, Department of Public Works
(The original text has been edited for space):

The Department of Public Works is committed to cleaning every alley in Shepherd Park and Takoma Park this fall. The cleanup will include cutting weeds, removing debris, trimming overgrowth, and sweeping the alleys.

The cleanup will begin on September 25. Residents will be notified that they should clean their yards of any overgrowth that extends into public space.



Residents should trim, bag and tie up bundles, no longer than 4 ft wide, to be picked up when our trucks come through. Residents are responsible for ensuring that no overgrowth from their yards, including shrubs, bushes and trees extends into the public space. In the future, the owner of any property with such overgrowth found extending into public space may be issued a fine.

Our goal is to have all of the alleys cleaned by the first week of November. At that time, we will roll into leaf collection full time.

For more information, call 645-7160.

Photo: Pat Bailey

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Want to Become More Active?

If you are ready to walk for an hour at least once a month, join the Shepherd Park **Orange Hat Patrols**! If you can't commit to a regular schedule, you can also participate on a drop in basis. For more info please contact Cynthia Lee at cylee@law.gwu.edu or 994-4768.

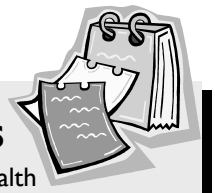
Is organizing, connecting with neighbors and perhaps throwing parties more to your taste? Then you might want to be a **Block Captain**.

Please contact Alexandra Kincannon at alexandra.kincannon@verizon.net or 541-9440 for details.

Want a Safer Home?

The District Department of Public Works (DPW) will hold its fall household **hazardous waste and electronics recycling drop-off Sat., Oct. 28, 2006, from 8 am—3 pm at the Trash Transfer Station at 3200 Benning Road, NE.**

SPCA Calendar of Events



- **Tues, Oct 3, 7—9 pm**
  DC Taxicab Community Forum in Ward 4, Peoples Cong. Church, 4704 13th St., NW
- **Tues, Oct 3, 7:15 pm**
  ANC 4A Mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- **Wed, Oct 4, 4 pm**
  Fall crafts, ShPk Library
- **Tues, Oct 10, 7 pm**
  SPCA Community Mtg, Shepherd Elem.
- **Sat, Oct 14, 11 am**
  PSA 401 Mtg, ShPk Library
- **Mon, Oct 16, 7 pm**
  Friends of ShPk Library Mtg, ShPk Library
- **Sat, Oct 21, 10 am—3 pm**
  Northminster Church Fall Fair
- **Sat, Oct 28, 8 am—3 pm**
  Hazardous and Electronic Waste Recycling, Trash Transfer Station at 3200 Benning Road, NE
- **Sat, Oct 28, 1—4 pm**
  Learning About Forensics III: A Museum Murder Mystery, Nat'l Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC, 782-2673
- **Sat, Oct 28, 11 am—3 pm**
  Shepherd Elem. PTA Fall Festival
- **Sat, Oct 28, 5:30—6:30 pm**
  SPCA Halloween Parade (rain date Oct 29, 4:30—5:30 pm)
- **Tues, Oct 31, 4 pm**
  Halloween Party, ShPk Library
- **Wed, Nov 1, 4 pm**
  Arts and crafts, ShPk Library
- **Tues, Nov 7, 7:15 pm**
  ANC 4A Mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- **Sat, Nov 11, 11 am**
  PSA 401 Mtg, ShPk Library
- **Tues, Nov 14, 4 pm**
  Air Force Band, ShPk Library
- **Mon, Nov 20, 7 pm**
  Friends of ShPk Library Mtg, ShPk Library
- **Tues, Dec 5, 7:15 pm**
  ANC 4A Mtg, Ft. Stevens Rec Center
- **Tues, Dec 12, 7 pm**
  SPCA Community Mtg, Shepherd Elem.

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