



# In This Issue: Special Insert on Civic Participation

## Shepherd Park News

2020 Vol., Issue 2 Serving Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, and Walter Reed May/June 2020

### Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

by Naima Jefferson

We all know that history is a good teacher. According to *the Washington Evening Star* and *the Washington Post*, in 1918 during the Spanish Flu pandemic, our community as we know it today was in the early stages of development with a few single-family homes and was advertised in publications as the suburbs. Our predecessor association, the 16th Street Heights Association, had just organized the year before in 1917 and elected its first president, Mr. Roper, at the home of Mr. Holmes located at 1325 Holly Street NW. That year, a war garden club was started and plans were underway for a members-only storage plant, homes were still being listed for sale, the women started a sewing circle, and the community had a successful fundraising drive for the Red Cross. Soldiers convalesced from the war at Walter Reed, which was expanding to provide additional beds

and housing, and the hospital cared for many sick with the flu and other mild outbreaks of other contagious diseases. Many exciting social events were planned in the community and at Walter Reed but were subsequently postponed to prevent the spread of the flu. We all know that despite the toll of the 1918 flu, the community eventually grew larger, stronger, and more vibrant.

SPCA events and activities have brought smiles to our faces, connected us, and strengthened our community ties. Despite the more current unpredictable days, one thing that we can be certain of is that our community is growing, becoming stronger, and will eventually be more vibrant. The last few weeks are proof that we can adapt! A sizeable portion of our community is working, learning, worshipping, shopping, and connecting with each other and our social

Continued on pg. 3

### Still Standing, with Gratitude

by Naima Jefferson

I think that we can agree that small business ownership is no easy feat. Add a global pandemic and now you have a whole host of new challenges. *The SP News* checked in with two small businesses in our community that have weathered many storms and have been great examples of the multiplier effect of supporting local, small, retail businesses – Ledo Pizza and Morris



photo by Kelly Shuy

Miller Wine & Spirit. During our outreach, both businesses commented on their fondness of “regular” neighborhood customers and their appreciation for new customers, and we received nothing but expressions of gratitude. The exchange was so heartfelt, that it was worth sharing with all!

Ledo Pizza and Pasta started at 7435 Georgia Avenue in August 2006. The Shuys, who live in Shepherd Park and are the franchise owners of the Georgia Avenue location, have a deep commitment to our community and are often seen at many community meetings advocating for a safe, clean, and thriving community. Over the years and despite the closure of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the 2008 Great Recession, the restaurant has been an amazing

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#### Next Meeting

##### Annual Community Meeting and Elections

Thursday, May 28, or 30 days after the end of the national emergency. Watch listserv and SPCA social media for updates.

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# Community Center Construction Update

## Project Overview

Construction is progressing on the Shepherd Park Community Center, being built on the southern hill behind Shepherd Elementary School. Thanks to Brent Sisco, Capital Projects Planning & Design Officer, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, who provided this update.

## What Happened in March and April

- Continued soil evacuation necessary to get down to final grade of new addition.
- Installation of interior concrete footings within footprint of new facility.
- Continued installation of the bioretention area and NW stairs.
- Completed installation of concrete walls along the north, west, and south perimeters.
- Continued demolition of the footing under the existing exterior stairs.
- Continued excavation and hauling away of unstable soils and debris.
- Continued soil backfill at all completed exterior walls.
- Continued installation of the foundation and support walls under the exterior egress stair.
- Continued arrival and erection of steel on site to support the floors, roof, and walls of the new facility.
- Estimated completion late Summer 2020

**Fun Fact:** The construction team has been finding “stetts,” old stone pavers that were previously used as the surface of Jonquil Street. These pavers, which provided a smoother ride for horse carts than traditional cobbles, were discarded when the automobile became popular.

For more details and updates, visit the project website, [dgs.dc.gov/page/shepherd-park-community-center](https://dgs.dc.gov/page/shepherd-park-community-center).



photo by DPR

Photo of stepped footings for the structural support of new facility.

**SPCA 2019-2020  
Board of Directors**  
**Naima Jefferson, President**  
(202) 285-7523  
[naima.jefferson@gmail.com](mailto:naima.jefferson@gmail.com)  
**Vice President, Vacant**  
**Paula Edwards, Treasurer**  
(202) 882-6005  
[paulae@shepherdpark.org](mailto:paulae@shepherdpark.org)  
**Pati Griffith, Recording Secretary**  
[patigriffith@gmail.com](mailto:patigriffith@gmail.com)

**John Folger  
Membership Secretary**  
[jmf613@hotmail.com](mailto:jmf613@hotmail.com)

**At-Large Delegates  
June Confer**  
[jconfer1225@gmail.com](mailto:jconfer1225@gmail.com)

**Ed Atkins**  
[edatkins@hotmail.com](mailto:edatkins@hotmail.com)

**Mark Pattison**  
[mpattison@catholicnews.com](mailto:mpattison@catholicnews.com)

**Citizens Associations Delegate**

**Tony Dixon**

[tdixon@shepherdpark.org](mailto:tdixon@shepherdpark.org)

**Civic Associations Delegate**

**Ryan Waddy**

(202) 412-2210

[ryanwaddy@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanwaddy@hotmail.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!

**Editor:**

**Cynthia Prather**

(202) 882-7419

[scsprather@aol.com](mailto:scsprather@aol.com)

**Advertising:**

**Beth Allaben**

(202) 882-2609

[beth.dc@verizon.net](mailto:beth.dc@verizon.net)

**Editing & Layout:**

**André R. Carley**

(202) 813-3152

[shepherdparknews@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdparknews@gmail.com)

**Note from the Editor:** I hope you've noticed that the *SP News* has changed. We've freshened our look and refocused our content to cover more of SPCA's involvement in community activities. In this issue, we are also featuring a youth writer (see p. 5). Finally, while the print version will continue to be in black-and-white, the website version will now be in color. Let us know what you think. Feel free to send comments and suggestions to me, Cynthia Prather, [scsprather@aol.com](mailto:scsprather@aol.com).

The *Shepherd Park News*, a newsletter of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, is published four times per year: October/November; December/January; March/April; and May/June. As a matter of policy, all errors of substance are corrected in the next issue. Report errors to [shepherdparknews@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdparknews@gmail.com).

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Dues and donations are deductible as charitable contributions.

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# Betty's Gojo Liquor License Revoked

by Mark Pattison

The SPCA, with an assist from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A, persuaded DC's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to do something it almost never does: reject a request to renew a liquor license.

The license for Betty's Gojo, 7616 Georgia, was yanked March 12 by order of the ABC Board. Betty's Gojo was given 30 days to file an appeal. A sign on the establishment's door says it's closed until the COVID-19 pandemic passes.

SPCA president Naima Jefferson and ANC 4A chair Gayle Black led the presentation of the "protestants," which also included a group of more than a dozen neighbors who live nearby and were bothered by incessant loud noise, fighting, and other troubles.

A six-page order from the ABC board listed four "charges" against Betty's Gojo: It allowed a third-party promoter to collect a cover charge; it failed to post the correct name of the licensee "in plain and legible lettering in a conspicu-

ous place"; it failed to preserve a crime scene following a stabbing incident in the basement; and it permitted a promoter to be responsible for security.

"The (ABC) Board lacks confidence in the ownership to operate the establishment in compliance with the law," the order said. "Further, even without considering the charges as a whole, the Board further finds that the violation described by (the last charge in the above paragraph) alone supports revoking the license."

Post script: This decision would not been reached without the combined efforts of the SPCA, represented by Naima Jefferson and Mark Pattison, Gayle Black on behalf of ANC 4A, a group of neighbors led by Derek Musgrove, and abutting neighbor Ken Giles. They and many others spent countless hours reporting violations, filing protests, and attending the many meetings and hearings on this matter. Our neighborhood is made better by their efforts.

## President's Letter from pg. 1

networks in ways that we may have never tried before. We all feel the discomfort (and for some joy) from all of the changes that have occurred in our lives.

This season gives all of us an opportunity to reset, and we should use this time wisely. Years or decades from now, the residents that come after us will learn that during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic there was a community sing-a-long, neighbors decorated their homes, shared memes, encouraged our neighbors to vote by mail and respond to the Census, sewed masks, inquired about which stores had toilet paper, and shared important information on the listserve. Rather than focusing and lamenting on what may not occur this year, let's focus our collective energy on what is before us, be flexible and prepared to adapt further, and cherish the greatest gift we have been given...time!

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## The Jenn Smira Team Knows Shepherd Park.

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4 BD | 2 BA



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# Upper Georgia Avenue Receiving Main Street Assistance

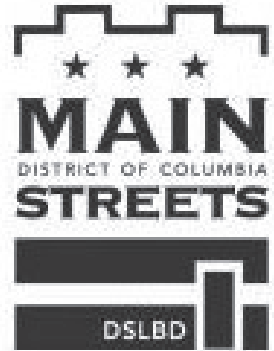
by Cynthia Prather

Upper Georgia Avenue is receiving valuable business support from the city's Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) via the Upper Georgia Avenue (UGA) Main Street grant, awarded by the local agency last fall. The Center for Nonprofit Advancement (CNA), a local nonprofit founded in 1979 and the largest operation serving nonprofits in the Washington, DC area, was awarded the 12-month effort. The grant should last until September 30.

According to the CNA website, the grant is designed to "assist business districts with the retention, expansion, and

attraction of neighborhood-serving retail stores; and to unify and strengthen the commercial corridor" (CNA website), which for this grant is the stretch of Georgia Avenue from Missouri Avenue to Eastern Avenue, NW. Because one of the goals of this grant is to connect Walter Reed with the Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street, the grant includes collaboration with The Parks at Walter Reed development for the Fern Street to Aspen Street portions.

For more information, visit the CNA website, [www.nonprofitadvancement.org](http://www.nonprofitadvancement.org) or contact Paul Ruppert email [paulr@nonprofitadvancement.org](mailto:paulr@nonprofitadvancement.org), or phone (202)657-3297.



## Still Standing from pg. 1

business supporter of the SPCA and has supported our community in many ways, ranging from hosting the SPCA for newsletter labeling, sponsoring and staffing SPCA events, supporting Shepherd Elementary School's PTA, and so much more. Since the Mayor's closure order of many nonessential businesses, our community has been able to give back to Ledo Pizza by ordering many hot, fresh, and delicious meals. These orders not only support the business's continued operations but also provides much needed income to several neighbors, who have been long-time employees of Ledo Pizza. When I reached out to Kelly Shuy, she had to shared, "Tim and I are grateful to our neighbors, who have continued to support us through these challenging times. Your food purchases, patience, and words of encouragement have allowed us to, so far, keep our staff safe, working, and providing for their families. For that, we are all grateful."

I also chatted with Jay Patel, co-owner of Morris Miller Wine & Spirit. Many new neighbors may not know that although Morris Miller has had several owners, it was one of the first establishments in the District to obtain a license to sell alcohol in 1934. Morris Miller may very well be the longest continuously operating business in our community and has endured a world war, the 1968 riots, several recessions, and other notable events. Yet during that time, Morris Miller has sponsored several SPCA events and activities and hosted some of SPCA's outreach efforts.

Mr. Patel expressed only gratitude to the community. "I just want to thank everyone for their continued support during this unprecedented time," he said. "We wish nothing but continued good health to this community."

Morris Miller plans to stay open as long as permitted by law to continue to serve its customers, but business hours at the store have been limited from 11 am to 8 pm every day. For the safety of Morris Miller's employees and our community and to limit the spread of COVID-19, they have asked that all customers continue to wear their masks when visiting the store.

Join the SPCA's Facebook page, "Shepherd Park Citizens Association (SPCA)" or follow us on Twitter (@SPCADC). Last but not least, don't forget to join the SPCA!!!

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**1206 Floral St NW**  
4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$985,000

**1425 Locust Rd NW**  
4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$930,000

**7416 7th St NW**  
3 BD | 2 BA | \$781,600

**1203 Geranium St NW**  
4 BD | 2 BA | \$750,000

**7541 Alaska Ave NW**  
5 BD | 4 BA | \$945,000



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Realtor® DC/MD/VA  
202.674.3918  
[lindsay.clark@compass.com](mailto:lindsay.clark@compass.com)



**Brian Van Wye**  
Realtor® DC/MD/VA  
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[brian.vanwye@compass.com](mailto:brian.vanwye@compass.com)

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# Mosquitoes Are Coming! Prepare Before It's Too Late!



Covering downspout extenders reduces breeding sites for mosquitoes.



Using the GAT mosquito trap is a simple way to combat the Asian Tiger mosquito.

article and photos by Matt Chambers

They are coming for us! The Asian Tiger mosquito is hatching from last fall's eggs in Shepherd Park right now. It is a non-native mosquito that aggressively bites all day and spreads diseases, like West Nile virus. Neighbors can do three things to help squelch this onslaught: (1) reduce breeding sites, (2) use GAT mosquito traps from Biogents USA, and (3) encourage your neighbors to do these things.

**Reduce Breeding Sites.** Eliminate or treat standing water. Tiger mosquitoes breed in any open container with water, such as bird baths, clogged gutters, and downspout extenders, the black, ribbed tubing you see everywhere. Empty these items, or, for the tubing, put old panty hose or similar material over the end. Treat any remaining water with mosquito dunks, which kill mosquito larvae and are available at local hardware stores and online.

**Use Mosquito Traps.** The GAT mosquito trap does not require electricity or carbon dioxide. You just add water, mosquito dunks, and a few blades of grass. Mosquitoes fly into the traps and get caught inside. A set of traps costs about \$60. You can order traps at [us.biogents.com/bg-gat](http://us.biogents.com/bg-gat).

**Encourage Your Neighbors.** Tiger mosquitoes have a 300 foot range, so get your neighbors to eliminate standing water and use the traps. A study found an 80% decrease in mosquitos with good trap coverage. Two Shepherd Park blocks with good coverage noted a big drop in mosquitos in 2019.

Let's tame the Asian Tiger! For more information, contact Matt Chambers at [matthewchambers1@gmail.com](mailto:matthewchambers1@gmail.com).

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# Shepherd Park Citizens Association

## SP News Special Insert

### Citizen Participation

## While Living with COVID-19

### Washington, DC Primary Elections, June 2, 2020

The District of Columbia Board of Elections will be sending the DC Voter Guide containing an Absentee Ballot Request Form (ABRF) with a postage-paid return envelope to each DC registered voter to ensure that those who do not have online access will be able to request ballots for the upcoming June 2nd primary. Because we were told the Voter Guide is scheduled to be mailed on May 8 and the Absentee Ballot Request Forms must be received by May 26, the SPCA decided in March to include the forms at its own expense in this newsletter so that residents would receive the forms as early as possible. Instructions are included on how to fill out the forms and how to submit them. Please email [SPCADCTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SPCADCTreasurer@gmail.com) if you need help submitting the form through email, fax, or the US mail.

This effort to ensure that our neighbors can participate in the upcoming election is funded completely by the dues and contributions of SPCA members. If you are not a member, please consider joining DC's best civic association today.

#### District of Columbia Board of Elections Candidates Appearing on Party Ballots in the June 2, 2020 Primary Election

##### **Presidential Nominee**

###### **Democratic**

Joseph R. Biden  
Tulsi Gabbard (withdrawn)  
Bernie Sanders (withdrawn)  
Elizabeth Warren (withdrawn)

###### **Republican**

Donald J. Trump

##### **Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia**

###### **Democratic**

Eleanor Holmes Norton

##### **DC Statehood Green**

Natale Lino Stracuzzi

##### **Libertarian**

Ford Fischer

##### **At-large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia**

###### **Democratic**

Robert White

###### **Republican**

Marya Pickering

##### **DC Statehood Green**

Ann C. Wilcox

##### **Libertarian**

Joe Bishop-Henchman

##### **Ward 4 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia**

###### **Democratic**

Brandon Todd  
Janeese Lewis George  
Marlena D. Edwards

##### **DC Statehood Green**

Perry Redd

##### **United States Senator**

Paul Strauss

##### **DC Statehood Green**

Eleanor(Echo) Ory

##### **United States Representative**

**Democratic**  
(Oye "TaxFreeDC"  
Owolewa)

##### **DC Statehood Green**

Joyce (Chestnut)

Robinson-Paul

##### **DC Republican**

##### **National Committeewoman**

Ashley Carter MacLeay

##### **Chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia**

Joe Bishop-Henchman

# The 2020 Census Challenge: You Matter! Be Counted

Adapted from minutes of SPCA February 2020 Meeting prepared by Pati Griffith

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association held a special meeting on February 26 at the Juanita Thornton Library to discuss the 2020 Census. SPCA board member Ed Atkins introduced Hansel Aguilar, Partnership Specialist with the Philadelphia Regional Census Center, who was there to raise awareness about the Census and its importance and to answer questions.



## **Q: What is the Census?**

A: Every 10 years the US Census Bureau records everyone living in the United States.

## **Q: Where is the documentation for the Census?**

A: In Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution. The Census drives funding for transportation, the military, roads, schools, and hospitals.

## **Q: When was the first Census taken?**

A: 1790. Thomas Jefferson was Secretary of State. The population was under 4 million, though even then there was a problem of undercounting, a problem that continues today. In 2010, there was an undercount of children under 5.

## **Q: What is the difference in the Census this year?**

A: The difference in the Census this year is that it can be filled out online or by phone. Therefore, there are lots of opportunities for filling out the census form. If people do not respond after two reminders, the US Census Bureau will eventually send a person to your house.

## **Q: Should we use the long form or short form?**

A: This year, all the forms are short. People should be certain to fill out the proper census form since there have been surveys that could be taken for census forms and fake forms have surfaced. Residents should not fill out anything that they don't feel comfortable with. If someone comes to your door, ask for credentials. The US Census Bureau has been working with the police to offset any kind of fraud.

## **Q: How do I get a form?**

A: A Census form can be filled out online or by telephone. You also can visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call 1-844-330-2020 to #GetCountedDC.

## **Q: How should college students respond?**

A: They should fill out the census form wherever they spend most of the year.

## **Q: Is there a deadline for completing the Census?**

A: April 1 was Census Day, with efforts continuing throughout the spring and summer. The US Census Bureau would like to complete the data collection at least until October so everybody can get through the pandemic safely. The District is partnering with Complete Count Committees, which help people who don't want to work with the government. The committees constantly work with local churches, and they will be sending mobile workers to areas where a community needs help. \*In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the US Census Bureau has revised the data collection schedule. Visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) for details.

If we are undercounted this year, we could be underfunded until 2030. (especially since we have recently been designated in the recent virus bill a "territory.") If you have not done so, please take steps as soon as possible.





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-4733



**ABSENTEE (MAIL-IN) BALLOT REQUEST FORM**

(NON-MILITARY AND NON-OVERSEAS VOTERS ONLY)

MILITARY OR OVERSEAS VOTERS: APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AT <https://www.fvap.gov/district-of-columbia>

**I. ELECTIONS FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING A BALLOT (Select ONE of the choices below):**

1. ☐ I am requesting a ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTION  
Month/Day/Year Type of Election (Primary, General, or Special)

2. ☐ I am requesting a ballot for **ALL** elections held in (calendar year) \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ Please put me on the **PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST** so that an absentee ballot will be sent to me in all future elections in which I am eligible to vote. I understand that I will be removed from this list if: **a)** I submit a written request to be removed; **b)** I become ineligible to vote for any reason; **c)** any mail sent to me by the Board of Elections is returned undeliverable for any reason; or **d)** I fail to vote by mail in two back-to-back elections in which I am eligible to vote.

**II. VOTER INFORMATION (Please print clearly):**

Name (First, Middle, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DC DMV-issued ID Number or Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Current DC Residence Address (P.O. Boxes will not be accepted): \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that if you provide a residence address that is different from the registration address in the Board's records, this application will be considered a request for a change of address.)

Ballot Mailing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

**III. VOTER DECLARATION/CERTIFICATION:**

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: the information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge; I am a registered voter in the District of Columbia who is eligible to vote in the election(s) for which I have requested an absentee ballot; and I am not requesting an absentee ballot or voting in another U.S. state or territory. I understand that if I sign this form knowing that the information provided is untrue, I can be convicted and fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed up to five years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature or other indicator of voter's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**IV. ASSISTANT DECLARATION/CERTIFICATION (Required If Applicant Had Help):**

I hereby attest that I am unable to sign my name due to illness, injury, or disability. I have read or received assistance to read, and understand, the statements on this form, and I hereby swear or affirm that the statements on this form are true.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature or other indicator of voter's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number of Assistant

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:** ☐ Registered ☐ EDCA ☐ Not Registered-Rejected ☐ Party Primary-Ineligible to Vote Ballot Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ward: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct: \_\_\_\_\_ Party: \_\_\_\_\_ ANC/SMD: \_\_\_\_\_ Local ID No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Processed by/Transmitted by (Initials): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-4733



## ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

Anyone registered to vote in the District of Columbia can vote by absentee ballot in any election in which they are eligible to vote. If you are not registered to vote, visit [www.vote4DC.com](http://www.vote4DC.com) for instructions on how to register to vote, or visit the District of Columbia Board of Elections (DCBOE) at the address below.

- **How do I request an absentee ballot?** Fill out this form completely, sign it, and return it to the Board of Elections in person, by mail, by fax at 202.347.2648, or by email in a scanned attachment at [DCabsentee@dcboe.org](mailto:DCabsentee@dcboe.org).
- **Do I have to use the DCBOE Absentee Ballot Request Form?** No, you are not required to use the Absentee Ballot Request Form to request an absentee ballot - any signed document requesting an absentee ballot is acceptable. Please ensure that your request for an absentee ballot includes the following information:
  - Your name
  - The election(s) for which you are requesting a ballot
  - The address at which you are registered
  - Your current address (*if different from above*)
  - Your contact information (telephone number and/or email address)
  - Your date of birth
  - Mailing address to which the ballot should be sent
  - Your original signature (*A signed absentee ballot request sent electronically will be considered to contain an original signature*)
  - Optional: your telephone number and email address (*while not required, this information will expedite the processing of your request, should we need to contact you*)
- **How will I receive my absentee ballot?** You will receive your absentee ballot by mail at the mailing address you provide on the Absentee Ballot Request Form.
- **How do I vote my absentee ballot?** Complete instructions on how to vote and return your ballot will be included along with your ballot.
- **When must I return my ballot?** Your voted and mailed ballot must be postmarked or otherwise demonstrated to have been sent on or before Election Day, and must be arrive no later than the 7th day after Election Day. You can track the status of your absentee ballot at <https://dcboe.org/Voters/Absentee-Voting/Track-Absentee-Ballot>.

Your request for an absentee ballot must be received by no later than 7 days before the election in which you wish to vote. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us using the information below.

## Shepherd Chess Team Makes the Right Moves

by Vashtie Reedy

Chess is alive and well at Shepherd Elementary, thanks to Bravo Zulu Chess (BZC), a Washington, DC-based organization that proudly serves Shepherd Elementary and other school-based programs, community centers, home school communities, and summer camps. BZC was started several years ago at Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School in Washington, DC, in response to student demand to learn and compete in chess at the highest possible levels.

After several attempts to build student interest in chess, Star Achievers, Shepherd Elementary's after-care program, engaged BZC to teach the game. In a few short years, the program has grown. The Zulu Chess team now meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 pm, and the team participates in countless tournaments throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia. On Saturday, January 25, the Zulus participated in the 1st Annual DC Mayor's Cup Chess Championship at John Eaton Elementary School. In true program fashion, BZC members played very well. The 3rd and 4th grade team placed first in the Under 500 section! "This program has instilled a high level of motivation, confidence, discipline, and excellence in our students," commented Angela Jasper, Star Achievers' Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator.

For more information, contact Byron Greene, Star Achievers Program Director or Star Achievers Operations Manager, Danielle Moody, (202) 465-0514, or visit the Shepherd Star Achievers website, [www.sesstarachievers.com](http://www.sesstarachievers.com). Note that children must be enrolled in the Star Achievers program to participate in the Shepherd BZC team. Others can visit [chess.com](http://chess.com) or connect with the Bravo Zulu Chess Academy.

*Note: Due to school closures resulting from the coronavirus, the Shepherd Elementary Zulu Chess team meetings are temporarily suspended.*

## Lowell Hosts Neighborhood Coffee

by Beth Allaben

Neighbors mingled with Lowell School staff, enjoyed coffee and bagels, and toured the Parkside Building on February 1. New head of school Donna Lindner said she plans to hold more events to connect the school and the neighbors. A highlight of the morning was a visit to the building's green roof (pictured: Chris Ginter, Lowell's

Director of Finance and Operations and Steven Lindner).



photo by Beth Allaben



### Free Resources for Families!

Lowell's School Talk blog has advice and resources to help you guide the children in your life—including a new series on supporting children during remote learning. [blog.lowellschool.org](http://blog.lowellschool.org)



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## Coping with COVID-19

### Sing, Sing a Song....

*Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.—William Shakespeare*



photos by Margie Odle



On March 26, neighbors participated in a community-wide sing-along, which was spearheaded by Rima Shaffer.

## Neighbors Respond to the Virus

by Josie Silverberg

*Note: In previous years, the SP News has provided opportunities for youth writers. This article by 13-year-old Josie Silverberg marks a new beginning for that practice. If your child has an interest in writing for the SP News, please contact Cynthia Prather, Editor, at [scsprather@aol.com](mailto:scsprather@aol.com).*

COVID-19 has brought countless challenges, but many of our residents have found ways to cope.

Because schools are closed, most have moved online. Schools have been using a platform called Zoom to teach students in a digital classroom setting. Although this is an innovative alternative, many students still find it difficult to learn online.

"Classes on Zoom are hard. When you're learning online, there are more distractions," says Navah Gris, a teen resident.

"It [school] has been completely restructured. I can't say it's been a smooth ride," remarked high-schooler Josie Reich.

Some people though, have found some good parts of being stuck at home. "It's easier to get outside," said seventh grader, Aliza Lesser. She's been able to get a lot more exercise, as have other people.

It's also a great opportunity to get the spring cleaning and organizing done. "I've been going through my files. It's a great time to really get organized," added long-time resident, Elizabeth Carroll.

Ken Giles, who has taught music to DC children for over 30 years, has moved his classes online. His students are grateful for the chance to keep learning. "I'm being pretty positive," he says.

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## COVID-19 Local Information

Up-to-date information and statistics: [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov)

District's COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-349-8323

COVID-19 Testing Hotline: 1-855-363-0333

Department of Human Services Hotline: (202) 727-5355

Local updates, information, or assistance:

Councilmember Brandon Todd (202) 724-8052



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# Updates from Georgia Avenue and Beyond

## Walter Reed Updates

### Great Lawn Awaits

from facebook.com/TheParksDC

Walter Reed's Main Drive, the campus' meandering roadway linking Georgia Avenue and 16th Street, is now open to the public! Walkers can access Main Drive from Georgia Avenue at Butternut Street (24-hour access) or from the 16th Street gate, just north of 16th and Aspen (6 am to 8 pm daily). With 24-hour access, Walter Reed's Great Lawn now is available round the clock for romping kids, dog-walkers, and quiet, contemplative moments amongst the beautiful trees. Note: In response to COVID-19 the 16th Street gate has been closed temporarily.

### Children's Hospital Clinic to Open This Fall

Children's National Hospital is scheduled to open its Pediatric and Adolescent Primary Care and Genetic Services at the former Walter Reed site in September. The existing parking structure, being outfitted with rooftop solar panels, also will be available. Initially, the entrance will be from Fern Street. Once the town center portion of The Parks at Walter Reed is complete, the primary entrance will be from Dahlia Street, which connects Alaska and Georgia Avenues.



photo by Beth Allaben

7350 Georgia Avenue, known throughout the community as the Geranium Market, is ready for a new tenant.

continues. The main construction at 7350 Georgia Avenue is done for the moment and awaits a buildout by a new tenant. "Our dream is to find someone to open a sushi restaurant on the first floor and a café for the second floor," Adam told us. Dan added, "Our next step is to replace the old concrete parking pad in the back with a permeable material." Dan has been able to keep a close eye on things, as he has an office next door at 7348 Georgia Avenue.

An article in the Gateway Georgia Avenue newsletter in 2004 described the early years of the market:

Anne Olshan remembers when her father opened the Geranium Market in 1930. The [then] 87-year-old widow was 13 at the time, and a student at DC's Paul Jr. High. Her family lived in the upstairs apartment. "My father bought the building at 7350 Georgia Avenue, and decided that a grocery business could succeed. It was the largest grocery around at the time, and included a full meat market." "My father believed in service, service, service. Every night around 2 a.m. Dad would get fresh meats, produce, and other items from the local market. He delivered groceries to neighbors' homes, and let them use the store telephone for local calls. Many neighbors had "limited" service, meaning that their service minutes were few. The Geranium Market had unlimited telephone service, and my dad was happy to let neighbors place calls from the store."

Adam and Dan have saved the old refrigerator case that still says "Geranium Market" on the front and hope the tenant can incorporate it into the restaurant.

## Geranium Market Ready for New Tenant

by Beth Allaben

The building at the corner of Georgia Avenue & Geranium Street has been called the Geranium Market for 90 years, and new owners Adam Tenner and Dan Turner hope that tradition



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## Business Beat

Membership benefits (depending on the level) include a listing on the SPCA website, an online business profile, and credit towards an ad in the Shepherd Park News. Visit [www.shepherdpark.org](http://www.shepherdpark.org) for a list of all of our business and community members. We encourage our neighbors to check out their goods and services.

### New Platinum Members

#### All Around Strong, LLC

James Dixon, BA, CPT  
Washington, DC  
(202) 536-8085  
[www.allaroundstrong.com](http://www.allaroundstrong.com)  
[support1@allaroundstrong.com](mailto:support1@allaroundstrong.com)

### Renewing Platinum Members

#### Lowell School

1640 Kalmia Rd NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
(202) 577-2000  
[www.lowellschool.org](http://www.lowellschool.org)  
[admissions@lowellschool.org](mailto:admissions@lowellschool.org)

#### Morris Miller Wine & Spirit

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Washington, DC 20012  
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[Facebook.com/MMWSDC](https://www.facebook.com/MMWSDC)  
[Instagram.com/morrismillerwineandspirit](https://www.instagram.com/morrismillerwineandspirit)

## Burmese Food Coming to Georgia Avenue



photo by Beth Allaben



by Beth Allaben

Shepherd Park neighbors were delighted to learn in December that Mandalay Restaurant will be coming to Georgia Avenue this fall. Mandalay has been serving up award-winning Burmese cuisine in downtown Silver Spring since 2004, and in College Park for four years before that. Their home will be in the new building under construction at 7302 Georgia Avenue. Mandalay will occupy the first two floors, with two residential units above. Mandalay owner Aung Myint says, "Stay tuned for details on the timeline – we can't wait to meet our new neighbors!"

#### Step Ahead Cleaning

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## Community Calendar May-June 2020

**Due to the citywide response to COVID-19, many meetings have been postponed, cancelled, or rescheduled as virtual meetings. Check with your particular organization for details. In addition, the SP News received the following responses from community organizations.**

### Shepherd Park Library

District of Columbia Government's operating status has been adjusted beginning Monday, March 16 to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The library is currently scheduled to resume operation on May 15. Consult our website for any changes as that date is subject to any mayor's orders. Until then, visit the DC Library website at [www.DCLibrary.org](http://www.DCLibrary.org) to learn more about online offerings.

### DC Public Library

DCPL is currently presenting virtual story times Monday-Friday at 10:30 am via their Facebook platform, <https://www.facebook.com/dclibrary/>. You can follow the page to receive notifications about programming. Participating teens receive service hours.

**ANC 4A**, Tues, May 5, 7 pm  
Virtual meeting tentatively scheduled. Visit [Anc.4A.org](http://Anc.4A.org) for update.

### Washington Ethical Society

Our office is currently working remotely. All are welcome to join us on Sunday at 9:30am for a virtual platform service --> [tiny.cc/wesplatform](http://tiny.cc/wesplatform)

**Zoom OPEN House for East Rock Creek Village.** Thu, May 14, 3-5 pm  
Please call (202) 656-7322 or email [info@eastrockcreekvillage.org](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org) for Zoom link. Ask about our special coronavirus membership.

## Community Game Night Spelled Fun!



by Cynthia Prather

There was community prayer, food, and fun on Friday, February 28 as Ohev Sholom, the national synagogue located at 1600 Jonquil Street NW, hosted a Community Shabbat and Game Night. SPCA President Naima Jefferson, the guest speaker for the Kabbalat Shabbat prayer services, spoke about Shepherd Park's long commitment to community diversity and invited congregants to become more involved in the organization. Afterwards, Shepherd Park residents, who were invited guests, shared in the community dinner with the welcoming hosts. The grand finale was the games – Scrabble, Life, Taboo, Backgammon, and more – lots of fun for game lovers of all ages. Thanks, Ohev Sholom, for the invitation and the smiles.

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## SPCA Upcoming Events



photo by Cynthia Prather

Spring flowers along Georgia Avenue brought color and smiles. Thanks to the volunteers who planted bulbs last fall.

### Garden Tour

Final decision will be made by May 15. Watch the list serve and social media sites for updates.

### Spring Planting

Final decision will be deferred until the end of the national emergency.

### Annual Community Meeting and Elections

Thursday, May 28, or 30 days after the end of the national emergency.

### Annual Community Picnic

Final decision will be deferred until the end of the national emergency.

### Community Yard Sale

Sat-Sun, Sept 12-13  
9 am – 3 pm

It's not too late to renew your SPCA membership for 2020!

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